

# SING·KAM

CRYSTAL CORNELIOUS D. MARAK



...basakoba grongtaigenma...?



# SING·KAM

Mamatangni gisikode namchikgipako  
Arimna bia ka·ate on na sikachim  
aro Noknaba Arimko nannikengani  
gimin iana kusi ong·genchim.  
Champenganirangko niksamsoc Arim  
Noknana agangija Chima A·weko wate  
re·angon, Nokna ka abee dongrikna  
nangaha. Adita sal aro jani ja·mano, uni  
janggi tanganio gital ong·c  
re·mikkangtaioba, ua Arimko gualna  
man·jaha. Ua Arimko grongtaina  
man·genma — sal aro somoini  
aganchakanikosa nichaksoaiaha..

# **SING•KAM**

© 2009 by Crystal Cornelious D. Marak

*All right reserved. The text of this publication or any part thereof may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or otherwise, without the written permission of the author.*

Published by:     The Author,  
                          Sangsanggre, Tura,  
                          West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.

First Edition: January, 2009

1000 copies

Price Rs. 95/- (ninety five) only.

Printed at:

Panthi Offset Printers,

Sukbir Bhawan, Tura- 794001

# **SING·KAM**

**Crystal Cornelious D. Marak**

**Sangsanggre, Tura  
West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.**

## *Agansoani*

“Sing·kam,” ine ia *novel*na angni biming donanio, A·chikni niam aro dakbewalrangko miksonga. Jatni niam aro dakbewalrang A·chik sakantini janggitanganiko sing·kam gita sikchakenga; uko chasongni kri namako ja·rike, namgijanirang dongode namdapatna nanga.

A·chik a·songo bang·a nitogipa a·brirang, chibimarang, chidarerang aro warirang donga. Uarangan A·chik a·songko mikkim ra·song chaatenggiparang ong·a. A·songni ong·telaigipa gamrangko a·songni silroro-namroroanina jakkalna nanga.

Seani miksonganiona sokna kam aro a·selrangko ong·ate *novel*ko seaha. Unigimin, iano bakko ra·giparangni bimingrang aro kamrang da·o tangenggipa aro sianggiminrangni saniba janggi tangani baksa tiktak melieode ba apsanangani dongode, uan maibakae meligakanisan ong·aigen.

Ia *novel*na agandapaniko, Dr.(Mrs) Caroline R. Marak, *Former Head of the Department of Garo*, NEHU, Tura Campus, see on·ahanina anga skigipako mitela. Ua angni seanirangko namdapatnaba namgipa ku·pattianirangko on·aha.

Iako semitingo, angna dakchakgiparang, Mukthi R. Marak, Sachil Das aro Porthyna R. Marakko mitelna namnika. Ki tapni bigilko tarian baksa segiminko nipilanio dakchakgipa, Melkior Ch. Sangmako anga

mitela. Sembertush A. Sangmakoba ki-tapni bigilna noksa sale on-anina anga mitela.

Bon-kame, angni jikgipa Rakmelina D. Sangma aro nokni manderangkoba ia *nove/ko* nakatataniao dakchakpaanina mitela.

Dated Sangsanggre, **Crystal Cornelious D. Marak**  
Tura,  
The 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.

## *Agandapani*

Crystal Cornelious D. Marak ia *novelko* uni Collegeo poraimitingoni a·bachenge, taridaprroe 2009 bilsini a·bachengo chapa ka·atenga. Ia *novel*ni mongsongbatgipa katta bichongrangara ong·a, A·chik *societyni* niamrang(*customs*) jerangon pangchake an·chingni *society* chasongni chasongna tangbangbaenga, aro jerangchin jatko rikbaenga. Nok rikon sing·kamchi krongrangko mangrakata; ua sing·kam A·chikni niamrangni *metaphor* ong·a. Pilak jatrangon niamchi nokdang aro songsarko chalaia; uamangni jora-ripeng baseanio, bia ka·anio, noksul-songsul dongrimanio, nokdangko chalaianio, bi·sarangko dal·atanio niamrangko ja·rika. Uarangan rama mesokata.

Indiani Salgro-Salaramo Khasi, Jaintia aro A·chikrang *matrilineal systemko* ja·rika, ua *systemara patriarchal systemoni* bikpilani gimin, uko namen *study* ka·enga, aro *scholarrang articlerangko* seenga. Una a·songtangni aro a·palchini *scholarrang* namen gisik on·enga. *Author* C.C.D.Marak jatangni *systemko*, niamrang aro uarangko maikai jakkalbaenga uko namekac nienga. Chengoni atchu-ambini ja·rikbagipa niamrangoni jerangan nama, uarangko ripingna, namgijako galna ba namdapatna nanga ine *author* nikenga. 21 gipa *centuryni* a·bachengao obostarang, janggitangani bewal, aro gadang chengoni chasongoni



dingtangaha; dingtangani kri dakbewalrangko nipilna nanga.

Ia katta bichongko me·suatna aro poraigiparangko gisik nangatna Arim aro Noknani *romanceko* jakkale seaha.

C.C.D. Marakni mongsonggipa gisik nanganian ia katta bichongko ong·a. Gri sokchiko chawari rimani, bia ka·ao amana batpile koros ka·ani, ma·manti dabanirangko dake koros japatani, gro nangstipani, kam ba janggi tangani cholko dakchenggija bia ka·ani, sia bon·ao ka·gipa kamrang, kakket ong·gijani, til·ekani, on·songanio jakkegijani, a·kim watani, uandakgiparangko nie *author* seaha.

Gipin katta bichongranga ong·a *environmentni* gimin niani, Shillongna agreba Garo Hillsni nitoani, a·songtangna chanchiani. Shillongo dal·kape Arim Garo Hillsni giminde bang·e uija; ua uko ding·a aro a·dimurara inesa chanchia. Arimni mikronchi *author* A·chik a·songni chiring, chibima, a·kawe, chibol, a·bri aro rokomari bol·wa·arangko knatoe agane mesoka. Arim a·songtangko wachikario nike katchaa.

*Environment, natural resources* ba ong·telaigipa gamrangko namroroanina jakkalani giminba seaha. Nongal Bibrao koela a·damo cho·gipa aro badinggiparang tangka bang·en man·a; indiba ua tangkako name jakkalna simsakgija cha·e ringesa bon·ata. Tangkachi skia·pora man·aniko bariatna tikkelan gri, rama jal·angrang nambatatna jotton ka·ani gri; indiba gamrangde bon·angenga. Samtangtangni

(*environment*) neng·nikanirang, jekai wa·rama, akkal-karap ong·na kenchakanikoba mesoka.

Chrarang badita bil gnang aro gisik gnanggiparang baditana kingking nokdangko saldona man·a, ia *novelo* mesoka. Arimko mamatang noktango dongate poraiata, kamba man·na dakchaka, ku·pattia, indiba ua uko chawarina kangja. Ua bi·sani aro uni ma·gipani cholgrianiko nike dakchakaha.

Bia ka·ato biltangna batpile koros ka·ani da·ororo A·chikrango ranta donga; bang·an pattal aro bagaŋrangko bondok done uarangni *incomekoba* man·jaha aro bon·kamao gimaata. Dabianirang korosko batate nokdangni *economyko* salona. Mitamrango, bia ka·ani ja·mano jikse maikai janggi tanggen, me·asa aro me·chikni, aro uamangni dolgni maharinin chanchisoani gri. Mitamrang kam gri, unigimin badiaba nokdangrang sildoani pal tang·ona. Do·meni bia ka·anio iarangko mesoka.

Rangtongni an·tangna mande on·songna skangan skatang basee til·ekon uko a·kim watna ga·aka; unon ua noktango aro demechikko wate ong·katna nanga. Ua maming mal bostuko kangna man·ja.

Mitamrang dilsretako man·a; indiba mitamrang Arim gita an·tangtangni gualako nikpile, an·tangtangko namatpilna jotton ka·a.

Namgijagipa dakbewalrangko take seoba, *author* A·chikrangni nama dakbewalrangkoba, jekai dakchakgrikani aro kakket ong·ani gunrangkoba mesoka.

*Characterisation*o author A·chik me·chik aro me·asarangko uamang ong·chongmota gitan salna jotton ka·aha. *Novel*ni mongsonggipa *character*rang, Arim aro Nokna sakgnian skia man·gipa, cholon-bewalo sronge dongna jotton ka·giparang ong·a. Noknako *flat character*, aro Arimko *round character* ine aganna man·gen. E.M. Forster uni *Aspects of the Novel* (1927) ki·tapo ua *character (representation of persons in narrative and dramatic works)* rokomgniko mesokaha.

*Narration* ba golpo aganangani ta·raka; salprakni obostarangko *chapter*prako matchote agana. Poraigiparangni gisikko indake agananichi salna man·a.

*Novel*ni *plot*ko tarion C.C.D.Marak *literary criticism*ni *three* (minggittam) *unities*ko gisiko done seaha. *Sub-plot*rang donga, jekai Rantong aro Jamieni golpo, indiba uarang *main plot*ni kokkimao ong·a.

Golponi somoi bakkandika; uno ong·gipa obostarang karisaonisan, wachi a·bachengaoni ra·gataona, sin·kari nigamaona ong·a. Somoini bidingo *unity*ko (*unity of time*) *author* rakkina jotton ka·a. Aristotleni *Poetic*so (4th C.B.C.) pangchake 16th aro 17th *century*ni *critic* aro *dramatist*rang *three unities*ni *principle*ko tariaha. Uaranga, *unity of action*, *unity of time* aro *unity of place*; indiba Aristotle *unity of action*ni giminsan seaha, *unity of time*ko janapchapaia. Bang·bata *action* Garo Hills aro Shillongo ong·a.

Ia *Novel* da·ororo ong·a obostarangni gimin sea; gital *invention*rangko jakkalani, uarang maikai

mandeni janggitangani gadangko dingtangata ukoba mesoka. Sana-banao uibatani, gital *technology*, jekai T.V., *mobile phone*, *computer*, uarangko man·chapa.

Katta jakkalani (*vocabulary and language*), sentence rikani aro grammarko *author* simsake nipiltaitaiaha. Uni ku·akmao *proseni quality* rang gnang, jekai, an·tang aganna skako rongtale aganani (*lucidity*) ba grikani, man·adipet kan·dikatanani (*brevity*), bakroe salwilwile aganako (*prolixity*) gelani. Jakkalronggijagipa kattarang, gitcham kattarang aro *foreign* kattarangko (*loan words*) poraigiparang chagrongon gital dake nika (*element of surprise and novelty*) aro poraiao katchaa. Je kattarang sea-jotao bang·e nakatkuja, ba jerangko gualangenga, uarangoni mitamara ong·a ‘rengrengsil,’ ‘bairong’ aro ‘grong oka.’

Pilakchiniko niaton *author* uni miksongao chu·sokaha ine nikatna man·gen; ia *novel* A·chik *fictionna* mingsa gamchatgipa on·gilani ong·a.

Dated Tura, **Dr.(Mrs) Caroline R. Marak**  
The 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Former Head of the  
Department of Garo,  
N.E.H.U. Tura Campus.

## *Bak Sa*

**B**ol bijakrangoni chirang ran·kujae gisep gisep tottakkuengachim. Sorok chijimgipaoni ding·bomgipa balwarang ong·katengachim. Adita somoina skangsan mikka jimeming sorokona manderang ong·kata dongkujaengachim. Gari bolsa bolgni salruraako nikana agre uarangkoba bang·e nikmankujaengachim.

Saksa chitti sualtingipa chatta sosiako ra·e tangsim rongchi nonggipa nok te·sachipakna re·angaha. Ua chattatangko do·ga sambao su·chane, do·gao donggipa *calling bell*ko sikdepataha.

Unon pegitchakgitchak dake sakgipokgipa bilsil kolgrikbongamangni pante saksa ong·katbaaha. Ua *sweater* aro *pyjamako* ganengachim. Ua pantea

ja·takim jaktakim dake namsaksak bolchaachim aro uni knirangko kan·dike donachim.

Chitti sualtimgipa uni ra·bitgipa chittirangko baseaha. Ua chitti kingsako pantena ra·ongkate on·e re·angpilaha. Pante do·gako chiprike, jako ra·bitenggipa chittiko name niaha. *Envelope* kosako “To, Arim Sangma,” ine ua bimingtangko seako nikaha. Ua chittiko oprakjoljole sambao donggipa *sofao* asongeaha.

Chittiko adita poraion uni mikkango kusi ong·ani nabaaha. Ua an·tangni *Junior Engineerna interview* ra·ako gisiktango nichakengachim. Kamko jako ra·echina okamataniko man·e, ua bilchrokna gitik dakpile kusi ong·aha. Uni kam man·gipara *ad hoc appointment* ong·achim.

Badia biapona watatenga ine ua chittiko nitaiaha. Unon uko watatenggipa biapara A·chik a·songchisa ong·engani gimin ua gisiktango suk ong·jaha. A·chik a·songko songadam inesan ua chanchiaiaachim. Chonaonin songjinmaosa dal·ahani gimin songadamo dongnade ua neng·nikate nikatengachim. Songadam inon a·dimu ripong ripong dakao ja·achi matchuki donggipa ramarangko re·na nangakosa ua nikatengachim.

Arimni chonengmitingon, uni pagipa sakgipin me·chikko nike, jik·deko gale kataha. Unomiting Arim bilsu bongamangsan ong·kuengachim. Uni ma·gipa uko skul watna chol ong·jaha. Ma·gipa pring attamna cha·anikon a·jak napesa man·achim. Gisepo me·surangko pale gong·sa gong·gni man·ode ua

detangna *biscuit*rangko ra·bae on·rongachim. Mikka bitchi ringe, ruat nade gane Arimmani songtang Matchi A·simo detangko alduengako uni adatang nikaha. Gritangde do·gita bilbrangaignok, wak gita cha·ambrangaignok ine mamatang Arimko Shillongo an·tang baksa donge poraiatna rimangaha. Gisepo ua nogipa Arimmanaba tangkarangko on·atrangaha. Arim Shillongo skul nape SSLC pass ka·aha. Ua Shillongni Mawlaio donggipa *Polytechnic College*o napmitingo, ma·gipa songo malaria sae siaha. Detangni mande ong·ako nikangna sikheoba ua man·angjaha. Ma·gipani siani somoio Arim porikka ong·engani gimin mamatang una agangija an·tangsan siaona re·angaha.

A·chik a·songo atchiahaoba chonkuengani gimin, minggipina uie ra·na jotton ka·jae Arim a·songtangko name uijaha. Chibimarangoni Simsangko, a·brirangoni Nokrek aro Balpakramkosan ua uiiaichim.

Kamna okamatako man·engon, ua somoiona ma·gipa tange dongkuode baditan kusi ong·genchim ine Arim chanchiataha. Ma·gipako gisik ra·aton uni mikrononi ding·bomgipa mikchirang peo jo·oldapangaha.

Do·ga oani gam·ana, ua mikchiko ripake asongaoni ki·sangchiko nipilataha. Unon ua chametang Marcyni college joke ki·taprangko ka·bako gipake napbaengako niksoaha. Marcy *jacket* aro *longpant jeans* ganachim. Uni *longpant* ganenggipa mikkachi sosiatako man·e ja·chokchipako mitchiahachim. Ua

Arimni asongenggipaona joljol re·bae ki·tapko tebilo done bik asongaha.

Marcy uni kniko pakkreona soke donachim. Ua knirangko jaksitangchi nachil kosak gita tariate “Maikosa poraibeenga chame, sani chittisa?” ine Arimko sing·aha. Arim mamingkoba agangija una jakoniko chittiko on·ataha.

Adita poraie nie, “Woo! hai *congrats*,” ine Marcy gam·kale chrikan baksa gol·tak chadengsronge Arimko salam ka·aha.

“Mitela,” ine Arim aganaha. Ua Marcyna, “Nang’ ja·chokchipakko nibo,” ine jaksi ote agankuaha.

Indiba Marcy uko knajaenga gita, “Umm, nang·kode bilongen *miss* ka·gnok,” ine ku·chil pe·e suk ong·gija aganaha. Ua biaptango asonge “Basako re·angenga?” ine sing·taiaha.

Arim dikdiksa chanchie, “Re·angnade mikkang antion nangenga, indiba mama baksa agangrikchengna nanggen,” ine aganchakaha. Unomiting uamangni noko donggipa me·chik uamangna cha ra·bae tebilo doneaha.

“Anga ba·ra gansrechengkuna,” ine Marcy cupko ra·e chakate an·tangni turamchi re·angengachim. Unon jonggipani chirongbitbit kni chite, jako rumal gitchak kae ong·katangengako nikrike, “Da·oa bachisa ong·katangtaienga?” ine rang·date sing·rikaha. Jongman ka·dingsmit dake, namrenge re·angaiaha. Uko pangnan noko nangana



am·oba roame dongani gimin man·rongjachim. Ua ma·gipani siani ja·manonin skatang janggi tangachim.

Attamo office jokmane, Arimmamagipa *sofuo* asonge bairong nie roengachim. Arim mamatangona re·ange “Mama,” ine ka·sne okameaha. Ua an·tangni chitti man·sogipako una on·aha.

Mamatang uko nigitdoe “Maia iara, sani chitti?” ine sing·aha.

Mamatang uni gingtingo ganenggipa sosimako jaksichi sikdoe chittiko niaha. On·tisa chittiko poraie nie “Ah, namjok,” ine ua aganaha. Arim mamatangni sambao chadenge dongengachim.

“Bachina watatengachim?” ine sing·e mamatang dem·gimin chittiko opraktaiaha.

“Chima A·wechina,” ine Arim suk ong·bregija aganchakengachim. “Re·naba sikipiljaenga angade.”

“Mainasa? Manderangde kam am·on man·tokjaenga, na·ade kam man·oba ka·janasa am·engama? Janggitangna Nokgipa pilaknan cholko on·a; indiba cholko on·mitingon simsakrikna nanga,” mamatang Arimni re·na sikkijani a·selko uijae aganaha. Mamatangni manenga gnang aganana, Arim jrip dongaha.

“Basako re·anggen?”

“Sombalo re·on namgen,” Arim aganchakaha.

“Dongasa bano dongechenggen?”

“*Quarter* man·kujadipet Chigamangni noko dongna man·genkon.”

“Sawa Chiga?” mamatang sing·kuaha.

“Uara, an·chingni rama rikamo nokpara ra·e dongenggipa panteara. Bia da·o B.A. porikka matchote sorgtango dongenga.”

“Ah! uara Chima A·weonisane? Indakode namaijok; indiba jeko ripeng baju dakeoba simsakbebo,” mamatang mikrakatjole una chittiko on·atpilaha.

Re na sikjaoba re·nan nangaignok ine chanchiroroe Arim kuturitungchina re·angpilaha.

## *Bak Gni*

**S**ombal pringo, Arim Shillongoni M.T.C. *buso* gadobaaha. Guwahationa sokbaengon, sal ding·akon ua chaktojaengachim. Gari *station*ona sokon, bostu paldinggiparang bostutangtangko brechina manderangna on·bekbeke man·si-man·dik dakatengachim. Gari *station*ko watbae Brahmaputra chibima rikamko re·angtaiosa, Arim rang·sisokbaa gita dongtobaaha. Srongdingding dakgipa Assamni ramarangko re·baengon, ua suk ong·e songrena man·bataiaha.

Salpaksa badebaon Arimni songrebagipa garini do·gao, bija sa·enga gita gitching ruet dake manderang gadobaaha. Meseng meseng dakpile seenggipa ding·olni bibakon Arim chakna amjaengachim. Ua jaksichi gingkol samsako sikjete samgipinchisa rang·site re·pilengachim.

Kelkichipak ua asonge re·engoba, sambao ku·biba seenggipa mande asongeming uko dongtoatjaengachim. Ramarang namjani gimin ua garini kelkirango basakoba totroroangaha. Badiaba biaprango ramarangko a·arang rurongdape nambatatjaengachim.

Ua dongtogija songreangengon, kelki gita tangsekgilgil a·brirangni nitoako nikatskaaha. A·dimu dongjae a·brirangko grikgjangjang nikatna man·engachim. Ramako ja·rike chibimarangni jokengako niroroe ua gisiktango an·sengange, “Ua chibimakoara mai mingenggen?” ine chanchiangengachim. Uni noksa aro *photorango* nikgimin borangrangko a·barango nikange, A·chik a·song a·bachengengahakon ine ua chanchiaha. A·chik a·songni biaprang inditan an·seenggipa ong·gen ine ua chanchisoa dongjachim. Chiring chibisikrang mikka bitchiko man·e, sorok rikamrango chidarerangni jokengarangko ua nikangaha.

A·briko tarigipa ramarangko re·angani ja·mano, ua gamgipa ge·giparangni a·palrango kam ka·arangko nikangskaaha. Ka·singipa balwarang balbaon, gari kelkini ainarango mikka bitchirang rongsa ronggni ga·akbaaha. Unon uni mikronrangba tusinasike chonbatroroangaha. Ua mikka waani gam·arangko ka·sinbatroroesa knaangaiaha.

Gari dondikana Arim tusiaoni mikrakbaon, manderang garioni ong·onako nikaha. Kelkichipak niaton dokan mikkangrango ‘Chima A·we,’ ine searangko ua nikataha. Ua an·tangni *bagko* ra·e garioni ong·onon mikka wasisikuengachim.

“Kosako, angni *suitcase* donga,” ine ua garini nokkingo dongenggipa *handymanna* jaksi ote aganataha. Gari kosako *plastic* pindapgipako *handyman* kike, *suitcase* aro gipin bosturangko ra·onaha. Arim jaksamsachi *bag*, sangipinchi *suitcaseko* ama amja ra·e, dokanona mikka chakjolna re·angaha. Uni kni sosiako ua rumalchi ripakengachim. Ua niwilwale nion Chima A·weko an·tangni chanchisoaoni namen dingtange nikaha. Uano kraagitan dokanrang dongachim. Ua maidake biap gitalo Chigamangni nokko sandigen ine chanchimitingo, *rickshaw* bolsa uni sepangona sokbaaha.

“Na·a Chigamangni nokko uiama?” ua *rickshaw* salgipako sing·aha.

“Oh, Tosangni depantekoma, uiaba. Kosak gittimchisa donga bisongde,” *rickshaw* salgipa aganchakaha.

Arim an·tangni bosturangko *rickshawo* gate re·angaha. Sorok namkalani gimin *rickshawko* ta·rakkalen salna man·achim. Sorok rikamo P.C.O. kuliako nike Arim an·tangni jeponi *mobileko* ra·ongkate niaha. *Phone network* man·ako nike ua kusi ong·bataha. Bijolini siliting sringarangko ua nikangengachim. Ramasamo te·sa te·gni office nok aro skul nokrangkoba ua nikangaha. Ua biapo Block man·eming songadamsrangde ong·jaha ine ua uiangna man·engachim.

Adita re·angani ja·mano giting bolmani ja·pango *rickshaw* dondikaha. “Ian Chigamangni nokde,” ine

*rickshaw* salgipa nok te·sako Arimna mesokate aganaha. Ua nokni sepangon, gilja nok te·sakoba ua nikatengachim.

Arim an·tangni bosturangko ra·one, chola jeponiko tangka gong·chikking bikote *rickshaw* salgipana on·ataha. Arim Chigamangni barini krokko ochenge, uni bosturangko ra·e re·angengachim. Krok gam·ako knae, rang·san achak manggni uko sing·roroe rikbaaha. Arim achakrangna namen kensoe an·tangni *bagchin* uarangko gojetsogenma ine chanchimanpilaha.

Arimni il·leng siksakgija tom·tom chadenge dongsoengmitingo, Chiga jako jolongga ra·e nokoni ong·katbaengachim. Achak sing·enggipachiko niaton, ua Arimni tom·tom chadenge dongengako nikataha. Ua Arimko me·manganma mandeanma ine chanchimanpilengachim. Ua achakrangko a·rikroroe ripengtangchina re·baaha.

“Bachinisa mosa, kobor man·soagri jumang·jamang sokbajok na·ara?” ine Chiga sing·soaha. Ua Arimni pakkreoniko *bag* ra·chaksoe, uko salam ka·aha.

“Oe, uiatsochengnaba man·jajok. *Phone* ka·na man·a ineba anga uiskaja aro uioba saona ka·atna.” Arim aganchakaha. Ua mikkingtangoni ding·olko rumalchi ripakroroe katangenggipa achakrangkosa nirikkuengachim.

“Oe, noko *phone* dongkujaenga. Ru·utkujaba *network* man·an,” Chiga aganaha.

“Angni kam galgipanara ianonasa watataba.”

“Oh, indakesakon, angade nang·ko niksoen jajrengsopiljokchim. Indide namjok,” Chiga aganaha.

Chigamangni nokni sa·raona sokon, songni me·aparangni basa rikengako Arim nikesaha. Me·chikmarangkoba merong baseengako ua nikatengachim. Adita pante-me·trarangba noksam·nokgilrangko rongtalatengachim. Chigani mande a·gital baksa re·baengako uamang niksoe kamtangtango dontonge niataha. Chiga Arimni bosturangko nokni apsali doncaha. “Ai, Shiliongchini mosa Arim sokbaa,” ine ua ma·gipako gam·e okamaha.

Chigani ma·gipako okamako knae uni pagipa noksamoni niataha. Ua basa tarienggiparangna wa·ding chitengachim. Chiga nogipa Do·meba babilsio kam ka·aoni cha·ae do·gacholo niataha. Arimko nikkujaoba Chigani ripengtango agansimako ua knarongachim. Chigani ma·gipa, pagipa, Do·me aro uano dongsoenggiparang Arimko salam ka·etokaha.

“Indakaia jong, chingade nokgri jamgrisa,” Chigama aganaha.

“Oh, ong·aiaba,” Arim aganchakaha.

‘Ianonan kam man·bajokna, mosade,” Chiga gipinrangna aganaha.

“Badia *Departmento*?” Chigapa sing·aha.

“P.W.D.o,” Arim aganchakaha.

“Ah, namjok, nang’ mosa Chigasa basakon kamrangko man·pagnok. Chingade dakchaknaba amangjaengaha,” ine Chigama aganskaaha.

“Da·alni kamkode dontongchimaibojok. Mi song·aba minjokkon, gimikan cha·e ringe re·angbo,” ine Chigapa kam ka·giparangna aganaha.

“Joreng na·a re·bacheng,” ine Chiga uamango donggipa panteko okamataha. “Na·a bajarchi re·ange brena nanggiparangko ra·eskabo,” ine Chiga una agane tangkarangko on·ataha.

Arim cha ringmane chiakolchi auna re·angmitingo, Do·me una kuturi ge·sako tarie donsoaha. Au·miksue re·pilbaon, Arimna biap tarigipako Chiga mesoke on·aha. Arim kuturichina napon, uno an·tangni bosturangkoa nikengachim.

“Mosa, na·ade okkrienggnok, mi cha·ainaha,” ine Chiga una aganengachim. Ua Arimni kni chitako chokkio asonge senge, uko babilsichina rimangaha.

Do·me uamangna mi·bijakrangko tebilo tarie donsoaha. Uamang an·tangtangna bamchikkope Isolo bi·ani ja·mano mi cha·na a·bachengaha.

“Shillongni koborde, nang’ mamamang namtokengama?” Chiga mi cha·roroe Arimko sing·aha.

“Im, namtokenga, nang·kosa basakon re·bagen ine Salchide inpilengjokna, Marcy aganata. Nikna sikpretengahana,” Arim gam·e aganataha.

“Ssh, babamang uchi mi cha·enga,” ine bikan Chiga an·tang jaksi otrako ku·chilo donate, ka·sne aganchina Arimna chin dakatengachim. Arim unosa an·tangni gam·e aganmanana sretangko chikmanpilaha. Chigapa aro ma·gipa kuturigipino mi cha·skaengachim.



“Do·meni bia matchotosa angkode Shillongchi watataiengjok,” Chiga adita ja·mano aganaha.

“Oh, angaban da·sinin basa rikako aro manderang bang·ako nike, maiba kam dongakon inede chanchiengachim,” Arim aganaha. “Banoniko rimbaenga aro mai minga?”

“Boningkode Jending minga,” ua aganchakaha. “Songde, A·chik a·songni salgipengchipak Chit mang a·bri ja·rekonisa, bikora robol kal·na changani gimin mingsingaba. Na·asa knamankujaenggen?”

Chigani boningtang man·nasigipako gingting chu·ate aganengako Do·me aro uni pagipa, ma·gipaba knaengachim. “Bilongtaiengjok uade boningtango rasong dakenggipade,” Chigama mi cha·roroe aganskaengachim.

Demechikni biana ku·si ong·soengoba, Chigapade nanga korosrangna sko saskana nangengachim. Uni *contract* ka·e tangka man·ara dedrangko poraiaton bon·aiachim. Nanga korosrangna tangka chu·onggijako niksoe, uamang a·a pattalko bilsisana Nokmana bondok donaha. Komila bagannaba rori mahajononiko tangka ra·somanahachim.

Noko biana wak jilsogiparang dal·tokahachim. Ma·drang-maharini ra·bagipa matchu, do·bok aro wakrangba mangsa manggni sokbaroroengahachim. Uarangna ja·man·ja·wilo ja·si chotna nangskagenchim.

Am·bolkoba pante-me·trarangko antio changprak a·brichiniko rikaate, noksamo dandake

donengachim. Sal somoi sepangani gimin songni manderang salantian kam dakchakna re·barongaha. Uamangna cha chini rite, mi·bijak song·e on·atskana nangani gimin korosrang salantian chotchangjaengachim.

Biako chonkafe ka·na am·oba me·asani maharian gari dal·ako watatna nanggen ine chawari sing·on dabirikachim. Chigapade demechikko bia ka·atna chanchitingtingen basakoba sakam an·dingako man·pilengachim. Neng·nikanirang aro kamrangchi sinjetanirangko mar·e, ua jattangni kamrangko gisik jime chanchiataniona sokaha.

Uni nikatanio nokdangko rikchengengon bang·bata salon mahari dolgnichini name chanchisoani dongbreja; indiba kusi ong·e cha·a ringanirangkosa dal·bate ra·e gamrangko rusiata. Biako chu·sokatna gam gngangiparang neng·nikani dongbreja; indiba bil amsokgijagiparangde gro jinang daksona nanga. Chawari man·bagipa uarangko chotna man·ejaode nokdang silbatani pal ong·sibataona sokako ua nikaha. Baksakobade bia ka·na tangka paisarang bang·e nangako nike, badiaba dedrangrang bia baru ka·gija jikkam sekimanirang dongenga ineba ua nikataha.

Do·meni dakchakaniko man·naba ua SSLCKosan pass ka·e kamba dongkujachim. Jendingde potana gisik nangkajae SSLCKo changni chang seoba pass ka·jaengachim.

Chigaf a aro ma·gipana bang·a neng·anirang dongengachim; indiba demechikko bia ka·e on·ania

ma·a-paani dakgnian ineba uamang uiskaengachim. Unigimin bil amsoka dipet uamang ua dal·begipa kamko chu·sokatna miksonge dongsoengachim.

Babilsini kamrangko matchotmane Do·me kuturitangchi napangaha. Ua Jendingkoba gisik ra·atengachim. Batanggipa bilsio, Jendingko Chima A·we *club* robol kal·na grong oke rimbaosa ua Jendingko nikchengahachim. Robol kal·anio uamangni *cluban* cheaha. Attamo, pante-me·trarang songni *Community Hall*-o robol kal·giparangna mi·bijak song·ahachim. Robol kal·giparangna ka·singipa ringaniko on·na ua somoio ua me·chik bi·sarangko rime tarisoachim. Robol kal·giparang sokbaon, ua uamangna ka·singipa ringanirangko sualaha.

Jendingde uko nikchendon una mikcha namnikaijok ine uni chittirangon parakatachim. Ua sal somoirango ua adatangni ripeng Kalenkosa gisiktango namnikskaengachim. Jendingni chitti seatarangko man·sooba ua aganchakgija donaiachim.

Apsan bilsion, ua an·tangni atchiani salo Kalenni watatgipa *Birthday card*ko man·soaha. *Card* ning·o 'Ka·sara nono, Do·me,' ine seako nike ua gisiktango jagokmanpilaha. Kalen uko nogipa gitasa ra·enga ine ua uiaha. Ua an·tangba Kalenna ka·saaniko parakgija, gisiktangosa dongaiengachim.

Uni ja·mano, Kalen songtangko wate Shillongo donggipa ma·detangona re·angaha. Ua wanggipaming Nongal Bibrao koelakoba badinge, giseposan songtangona re·baaiaha.

Ka·sne ka·sne uni gisikko Jendingna salangaha. Jendingna ka·saani bimik maidake uona nabaaha, ua an·tangan uirikpiljaha. Uamangni mikcha namnikgrika parak ong·ahaon, uni ma·drang-maharirang Jendingni ma·a-paachi re·angaha. Uamang nokchame kae, bia ka·na salkoba manchisoe donaha.

Ua an·tangna bia ka·ani *gownko* aro Jendingna *suit* gisimko ba·ra dokano sikatengachim. Biani jakstemko ra·bittimna aro *snow spray* sattimna ma·drangoni me·chik bi·sarang sakgittamkoba minge donsoengachim. Uamangnaba biao ganna cholarangko sikmanahachim. Biana *cakerangko* aro sonani jakstemrangko tariatengachim. Biani *cardrangko* tariatmañe bimingrangko see manderangna sualatengachim.

Do·me an·tangna batanggimin salrangko gisik ra·ate palangtango asongaha. Ua uni *organdy*, *stockings* aro *Japanese ribbonrangko* rate dongipako ra·e, pul *tarina* a·bachengskaaha. Kamrang gitapgitap dakengani gimin pringo sal nabaa aro attamo napangakosa uade uirikaiengjokchim.

# *Bak Gittam*

**S**algipino, Arim an·tangni kamko jako ra·na Chigamangni nokoni ong·katbaaha. Pring ong·oba, sal ding·beengachim. Balwa balanirang komie bol bijakrangan mojimjaengachim. Un·mikkango jo·olenggipa ding·olrangko rumalchi ripako ua amchakpiljaengachim.

Bajaron a rama chel·ani gimin ua ja·ku ta·rake ga·angengachim. Unonide officeko nappake re·gipa busko srapna nangachim. Basakoba Shillongchi katpilna sikani gisikrangba una nabaengachim. Guuri mitmat mitmat balkasin balao Shillongo an·tangni roarangkosa ua gisik ra·atengachim.

Chigamango ua rengrengsil bolsa jakkalgija dongengakoba nikbaachim. Ua uko salna changjani gimin donbaaiaha. Chigaba uko scootero sale donna am·achim; indiba pagipako uni kamchi salangna nange

man·jaha. Skul re·gipa bi·sarang janggiltangtango borot botot *bagrangko* kee, rengrengsil sale uko re·pakangaha. Salni ding·ako minggija uamangni chetchat chetchat agangrikjoljole skulchi re·angengako nikrikon, ua uamangna kusi ong·chakangengachim.

Bajaroni uni sokon *busba* sokbaaha. Gari ning·o mande komiani gimin ua sakgnini biapo suk ong·e a·songe re·angengachim; indiba Chima A·weo a·gital ong·e, uni gisikko an·saoatna man·jaengachim. Ding·ana mamingkoba nina sikjae, mikchipesa ua asongengachim.

Adita re·angani ja·mano, gari dikdiksa neng·take re·chakatangtaiaha. Mikchipaoni Arim ka·sne mikron oe nidoon, sakchigrikgipa me·tra saksani dakmanda gane an·tangni sambao chadengengako nikaha. Arim ka·sne kelkichipakna jitange una a·songna biap on·aha. Me·trani asongaton smildinggipa bibarang uni gingtingo nangeaha. Ua gisiktango me·trako niatna siktaiengachim, indiba pa·jaha.

Arim gisepo me·trako mikgisepechi niataha. Balwa balengon me·trani mikkango uni knirang ga·akdapengachim. Uaranko me·trani nachiltango skepatengon, uni jako *mobile* ra·bitako Arim nikatengachim. Me·trani nachilo chongipa natapsina agre, uni jakgitoko mamingkoba ganako ua nikjaengachim.

Me·tra kelkichiko niatskaon Arimni an·tango niengako nikaha; unon Arim jaktango ghoori gangipako nimika dake kelkichi nie dongengachim. Me·traba

ka·dingsmite, gisiko maikoba chanchienga gita garini tongtong nie asongengachim.

Gari' dondiktaion, me·tra asongaoni chakatangaha. Arim kelki gita niaton, 'Chima A·we Secondary School,' ine *signboardo* seako nikataha. Uanoni adita re·angon ua P.W.D. officeona sokangaha.

Attam sal ka·sinango, Arim officeo uni kamrang matchotmanaha. Office jokani somoio, ua pringo re·bagipa *buso* gadobataiaha. Skul sepango gari neng taktaion ua kelki gita ua apsan me·trako ripengska baksa nikataha. Uamangni garichina rikbaengakoba ua niksoaha. Ua an·tangni a·songenggipa biapko dal·bate kangsoe, ki·sangchiko nisogija dongsoengachim.

"Iano biap dongengama?" ine Arim ru·utgijan me·chikni ku rangko knaaha. Ka·dirgsmita gnang ua an·pile aganchakna dakengachim. Unon ua saksa me·chikmani ka·baktango bi·sa ba bite an·tangko sing·engakosa nikaha. Uni ka·dingsmitani mikkangara grapna am·a gitasa dakaiaha.

"Asongbo," ine Arim ka·sne agane una biapko wate on·aha. Ka·sne an·pile ua niattaion uni niscenggipa me·trako ki·sangchi donggipa biapo a songengako nikataha. Rama gimikan ua nipilna sikako chakchike re·baaha. Chima A·we bajarona sokon manderang bil·bal bil·bal garioni ong·ontokengachim. Arimni ong·katna man·jaengmitingo, me·trade ripengtang baksa ki·sangchini do·gachol gita ong·onang·kaaha. Arim garioni ong·katon chel·aosa me·trako nikrikaha.

Attamo mi cha·man-ringmane, Arim Chigani ma·a-paa baksa bairong nie roengachim. Do·me uamangna gue den·e ra·baaha.

“Do·me, iachiba gue ra·baku,” ine Chiga uni kuturioni aganatengachim. Arim Chigani ma·a-paa baksa rooba suk ong·nikjaengachim.

“Anga Chiga baksa roekuna,” ine ua agane asongaoni chakatangaha.

Chiga kuturitangni pakmarango git ring·giparangni noksarangko tapsoengachim. Arimko niksoe “Mongma grong dongkuengama, mosa?” ine ua sing·soaha. Biri, *cigarette* ringanin Chigani ku·chilrangara gisimpilachim.

“Dongkuengakon, hai indide ang kuturichin,” ine ua Chigako rimaha.

Chiga Arimni ki·sang ki·sang ja·rikangaha. Chokkio gate donenggipa chola jeponiko ua *cigarette* bikote, “Pongsa sa·anjok, na·a ringaibojok,” ine Chigana on·aha. Arim palango tudarengi jaktangchi skoko rim·chane, maikoba chanchia gita jripjrip dongaha. Chigara suk ong·e *cigaretten*i wal·kuko dawilikate ope roskaengachim.

“Mai ong·aha mosa, mainasa da·alde jrip jrip?” Chiga uko sing·aha.

Unosa Arim to·tro ong·e mikrakbaa gita “Oh, mi cha·preteming tuna sikenga, mosa,” ine aganchakaha.

“Sakoba nikbaemingsa chanchiengakon?” Chiga bal·eke sing·taiaha.



“Nikbaja maija, na·a mosaba. oe.” ine ua aganroroe tudarengaoni chakataha.

“Nang·ni officechi re·gipa rama gitan Ta·sri wariona re·na man·aba. Shillongni *Ward's lakeko* mingsinga gita chingni songoba manderangde uchisa rona namnika. Basakoba an·chingba re·na,” ine Chiga ku·siktangko dokpingpinge ajamroroe aganaha.

“Tubojok, angaba re·gnok,” ine ua Arimna agane turamtangchina re·angaha.

Chigani re·angmano uni agananggipa wariko Arim nikna sikatengachim. Minggipin uni gisiko me·trani ka dingsmitako aro uni knirang balwana mikkango ga·akengako nikatengachim. Shillongona bate uano ganggurang bang·batachim. Ua ganggurangko doke adita an·tangni chanchianirangko gualataha. Mosori salone ua palango tuna tariaha. Mikka simani gimin balwarang ding·engachim. Mikka bitchirang ga·akani gam·arangko ua knabaaha. Uni kuturiona ka·singipa balwarang balnapbaon, ua tujripangaha.

## Bak Bri

**A**rim pringsao, pringni balwako ringna sorokona ong·katangaha. Chima A·we songni pattalona dakanggipa ramarangko ua re·e roangaha. Manderang pattalo lial gamtokengachim. Chigamango donggipa Jorengni matchu ki·sang ki·sang golsmithi dokroroe a·a gamengkoba ua nikataha. “Uan Chigamangni a·akon,” ine ua chanchiatengachim. Mitam manderang *tractor* chongipachi a·a gamengachim. mitamranga alirangko tariskaengachim. Ua a·a gamenggiparangko adita chadengdike nie roaha.

Chima A·we songni manderangkoba ua aditade uiahachim. Somoi jokarango ua Chiga baksa biana do·o, wakangko brena songoniko sandie Chima A·we songni ramarangkoba nikahachim.

Sal ding·baengon. Arim roramaoni nokona pil·baaha. Chiga mangglong *halfpant* gane uni

scooterko wal·ku dimikdimik gam·pretpretate tarisoengachim. Arimni re·baako niksoe ua jakpatangko dokpronge, “Da·alde angming scootero re·na man·genba, mosa,” ine agansoaha.

“Namaigen,” ine Arim uni sambao asongchonggome scooter tariako nie dongaha.

“Dada, cha ringbo,” ine babilsioni Do·me uko okamataha.

“Ringebo, mosa,” ine Chigaba aganengachim.

Arim asongaoni chakate babilsichi re·angaha. Cha ringmitingosa ua tik dake gisiktango, “Officechi scootero re·ode, *buso* angni nikronggipa me·trakode niktaijawa, unigimin maikoba pa·sike joksretna nanggen,” ine chanchiani sokbaaha.

“Chi·ama chi·ja dada,” ine Do·me uni cha ringgija dongengako nikate sing·aha.

“Oh, chi·aba,” ine agane ua cha ringangtaiaha.

Office re·ani somoio, Arim taritilonge kuturitangoni ong·katnasiengachim. “Hai mosa, re·naha,” ine Chiga uko okamatengachim.

“Anga *buso* re·angna man·aigen, mosa,” ine Arim kelki gita niwate aganataha.

“Maisa ong·taiaha, da·oara?” ine Chiga aganroroe uni kuturiona re·baaha.

“Scootero re·angbo, da·alde angko salna nangjawaba,” ine Chigapaba apsalio asonge aganatengachim.

“Hing knaaha,” Chiga mikgil de·doe Arimko nie inaha. Chigapani aganatako ua knae, Chigako jechakna man·jae ong·katangaha.

Chola balip balip dake, mikchi ong·katpile Chiga scooterko ta·rake salangengachim. Unomiting Arimde scooteroni mai cholchi ong·o rikra man·gen ukosa chanchiangskaengachim.

“Da·mo mosa, dondikkubo” ine Arim Chima A·we bajarona sokon Chigani pakkreo doktopaha.

“Maina?” ine Chiga scooterko ka·sne dondike sing·aha.

“Cha ringkane inesa.”

“Da·osan mi cha·mane re·baengake!”

“Indakode *cigarette* ringskabo,” ine Arim agantaiaha.

*Cigarette* inako knaon, Chiga ringnan sikaiaha. Scooterko done uamang dokan chongipaona re·angaha. Arim *cigarrette* pongsa tree Chigana on·aha.

“Nang·nara mosa?” Chiga uko sing·aha.

“Bajarode ringna nian dike nika, na·a ringaibo, mosa,” ua pa·sike aganchakaha.

Unomiting Arimni officeko nappake re·gipa *bus* sokbaaha. Chiga jaksamsachi kar·gkare rim·e dokano git watenggipana melie ja·a ga·taptape suk ong·e *cigarette* opengachim. Arimni *bus* ko srapna rikangako ua nikrikjaengachim.

“Mosa angade *buso* re·angaign·kne,” ine Arimni inwatangengako ua knaaha. Ua bik ku·rang gam·bagipachiko gitok pe·e niaton, Arimni *bus* rike gakatangakosa nikrikaiaha.

Gari ning·ona napon Arim uni nikronggipa me·trako nikjaha. “Da·sio Chigaming scootero

re srangon," ine ua chanchimanpilengachim. Ua me·trani ripengkode nikate, uni asongenggipa sambao asongeaha.

"Chigaming nang·ko nikatanasa," me·chik una ka·dingsmite ku·rang on·chengaha.

"Oh, Chigara bajaronasa re·baaia, da·alde na·aba saksansama?" Arim sing·aha. Ua an tangni uina sikako sing·atmane, ua me·chik an·tangko maikoba chanchichipgenma ine jajreng nikpilengachim. Ua uko nikrongoba ua sawa aro bano donggipa ukode uikujachim.

"Angni ripengko sing·engama?" ine me·chik uko sing·taiaha; indiba Arim mamingkoba agandapjaha. "Oe, bikon sing·enga," ine ua inenga gita ka·dingsmite uni aganchakanikosa sengaiaha.

"Oh, Noknara D.S.C.ni porikkako sena tarisoengana," me·chik aganaha.

"Uko Nokna mingakon," ine Arim gisiktango chanchiaha.

"Na·songara abisama?" uidapangna sike ua sing·mika dakaha.

"Inghing, indiba chinga gittim apsanni aro apsan skuloba ka·enga," me·chik aganchaktaiaha.

"Mikkang apsananganasa," ine Arim gipin kattako agandapna changjae tol·e aganaha. Ua an·tangan Noknani mikkang·bimangara uni agangrikenggipa me·chikonide namen di·igtangbea ine nikmanahachim.

“Do·meni biaonade chinga re·angna am·engachim,” ine me·chik agantaiaha.

Arim rang·san, “Nang...” ine tongsa agane dongaha. Gisiktangode, “Nang’ ripengba re·bagenma?” ine ua sing·na am·ahachim.

“Maia nang?” ine me·chik sing·skaaha.

“Ong·ja nang·ni bimingkosa sing·na am·achim,” ine ua an·tangni sing·na am·ako reppidapaha.

“Gatse,” ine me·chik gam·bregija kratcha·a gnang aganchakaha. “Nang·koara?” ine ua uko adita ja·mano sing·skaaha.

“Arim,” ine ua aganchakaha.

“Da·al attamo Noknani *mobile*ona Do·meko angna *phone* ka·na aganpabone. Anga Noknani *mobile number*ko on·atna,” ine Gatse aganaha. Ua an·tangni *bagoniko* lekka aro *penko* ra·ongkate *mobile number*ko see una on·aha. Unomitingon, gari skul sepango neng·takaha. Gatseni asongaoni chakatangon, “Mitela,” inesan Arim lekkako ra·chake aganrikna man·aiaha.

Arim gario asonge re·angkue Noknani *number*ko uni *mobileni* SMS ka·anio gapate, gisiktango nabagipa kattarangko seaha:

“*Nokna. nang·ko nikchengaonin anga nang·na ka·sanapahachim; indiba nang·nasa aganna man kuyaenga - Arim.*”

Gari dondiktaion, uni office mikkangona sokengahachim. Ua garioni ong·ona skang *mobile*o uni segiminko sketbakket kimitna am·on, SMS

watatanikosa sikdepatmansrangaha. Unosa meseng cha·ata gita uni gisikrang srang dakjolphila.

\* \* \*

Attam sal do·bret ki·sang dakangon, Arim office joke nokona re·bapilaha. Nokmikkango ua gari gital *Tata Winger* bolsako nikaha. Uno Shillongni gari *numberko* seachim. Uko nike saoba re·baama ine ua chanchiroroe Chigani kuturichina re·angchengaha.

“Oi, mosa?” ine ua kuturi ning·chiko niataha.

Kalensa uno songbad badale poraisoengachim. Ua Arimko niksoe, “Office jokbajokma?” ine sing·soaha. Uni asongenggipa sepango cha, *biscuitrang* aro glasso chiko donengachim.

“Na·ara basako sokbaskaa, Shillongchinima Nongal Bibraoni?” Arim sing·aha.

“Oh, mejalo Nongalchini re·baa; Chiga dongjani gimin nang·kosa senge rosoenga,” ua aganchakaha. Ua Shillongo donge Arimkoba uiachim.

“Namengakonba?” ine Arim jaktangko on·e uko salam ka·aha. Ua Kalenni sepango donggipa chokkio asongaha.

“Iarangko nie rosokubone,” ine Arim Chigani *photo albumrangko* tebiloniko ra·ongkate una on·aha. “Anga an·tangna cha sandichengkuna,” ine ua asongaoni chakatangaha.

Do·me babilisio miattam song·soengachim. Ua Arimna cha tarigiminko *cupo* rue on·aha.

"Ia Noknani *numberona phone* ka-atbona, Gatse aganata," ine Arim an-tangni *mobileko* Do-mena on aha.

"Nokna! Gatsel!" ine Do-me gisiktango Arim maidaken uamangko uibajok ine chanchie *mobileko* ra-chakaha.

"Da-sio angni gario officechi re-angmitingo Gatse *number* on-ata," Arim Do meni gisiko uina sike dongenggipako ma-sienga gita agandapaha. Ua cha ringmane gue pan sandijole, Kalen baksa rona re-angaha.

"Nongalchini koborrange namengama?" Arim Kalenko sing-aha.

"Alamala cholienga, indiba ia antide mikka wasimaiani gimin Simsang chibima dal-bate chinalsachiko koela cho-atna man-jajok. A-palona ra ongkate chimonggiparangkosa palatna man-aiaha," Kalen aganchakaha.

"Iara bano ka-gipa Wangala chrokani *photosa*?" Kalen sing-aha

"Oh, chingni Shillongo chrokgipakosa, Chiga ka-c ra-baakonde."

"Jattangni niam aro dakbewalrangko ripinganikode angaban nangnikpaa," ine gisiknange *photoko* niroroe Kalen aganaha.

"Oe, ripingnade nanga, indiba cheka gnang ja-rikosa nama," ine Arim aganaha. "Chanchichipe, mamatangrangni gri sokchiko nokkrom ra-aniko niatbo. Nokni demechikrangni dedrangko adatang, abitang ba



nogipa, jinggipa ine an·ching chanata; indiba apsan nokni depante aro demechikni dedrangko jikse ra·grikatania maio dingtangenga, an·clude apsan dongjaengama?"

"Angaban mitam niamrangkode namnikja, jedake, mamani siani ja·mano angkoba manina on·songna sing·eachimba. Unasa angara kratchajole Shillongchi ademangona katanga," ine Kalen glasso donggipa chiko ra·doe ringataha.

Kalenko manitangna on·songna am·ako Arim unosa knachenge ka·dingsik dake aganangaha. "Iarangni bidingo aganpaoba skangonin dakbaenga inesa bang·batan bon·ataigen. Jatni niam ritirangde pangnan sing·kam gita an·chingna donggen, uarangko an·tangtangsa namdapatna nanggen. Mitam an·chingni niamrang aro dakbewalrang namskabaa, jedake ma·a·paako manderaani, uamangko mitelpilna ka·gipa kamrang, noksul·songsul dakchakgrikani, on·grik·sagrike cha·a·ringani, ma·dong kimaniko jegalani. uandakgipa namgipa kamrangko ja·rikode nama."

"Oe, da·ororode gri sokchiko nokkromna man·jaoba debaaniko dakskaengaba. Uandake, an·chingni je dakbewalrangoba namgipa gunrangde dongtelgenchim, ukosa namdapatna nangenga," ine Kalen Arimni agananina gisik nangatako man·e aganpaaha. Uamang sakgnian gue cha·roroe maikoba ning·tue chanchikuenga gita adita jripjrip katta nadapgija dongaha.

"Na'ara mainabasa songona re-bajolama?"

"Oh, man'ode ia ja dipetan songoni Williamagaronaga gari wate nina inesa ra-bajolachim," Kalen aganchakaha.

"Ma, ua angni sa'rao nikbagipakon?"

"Oechim, angaba da'o re-skagnok, Chigana agansoaibojok."

"De indide, basakoba golpotaina," ine Arimba asongaoni chakataha

Sa'rao dongipa gariona Arim Kalen baksa re-angaha. Uni re-angmano Arim baltin aro sabon ra'e auna re-na dakengachim. Uko Do-me nika, "Dada, ia nang-ni *mobile*, SMSba sokbaakon gam'enga," ine una *mobile*ko on'aha.

Arim una SMSko sokbagipako nichengna sikengoba "Gatseara maina nang-ko *phone* ka'na aganata?" ine Do-meko sing'aha.

"Oh, angni biaona re-baengakosa aganataide," ine ua aganchalaha.

Arim SMS sokbaako nina kuturitangona re-angchengaha. Ua SMSko kulie nion, Noknani seatgipa kattarangko nikaha:

"Arim, nang-ni seatgipa kattarang, angko aiao inmangipa jumangko nikenga gita dakatpilaha. Iako parakna anga duk ong'a, mamani depanteko angna kangenga "

Uko poraion Arimna agilsakan andaljolpilaha. Kal'akesa seatama, bebekon seatjokma ine ua chanchiaha. Ua aditana jada changa gita dakpilaha.

Ua an·tangni auna am·ako gisik ra·atpile chiakolchi re·angaha.

Andalsrikbaengon seng·watrang ong·katbaaha. Ring·rang ring·rang ching·gipa askirang, jajong baksa salgio teng·suaha. Uarangko nikoba uni gisikko dongtoatjaengachim.

Ua sketbakket aue an·tangni kuturichina re·bapilaha. Gansre chinsree, ua palango dongenggipa *mobileko koldoe*, Noknana SMSchi aganchakna seaha:

*“Ka·dongsoani grio, nang·ni angna aganchakanina, mitela. Jokode Ta·sri wari nijola gita, knalo ong·katbabo, uano agangrikna.”*

Sea matchoto, ua Noknana SMS watataha. Ua an·tangni jaksamgnini jaksirangko siksepgrike, skoko janggilchi rim·pangpile dongengachim. Basakoba ua an·tangkon ruragipa Susime, malamgipa do·kime gita ong·skagenma ine chanchiate suk ong·piljaengachim.

“Dada mi cha·bojok,” ine Do·meni okamatako ua knaaha; unosa ua an·tangni mi cha·kugijako gisik ra·e, mi cha·na asongaoni chakatangaha.

## Rak Bonga

**S**algipino, Arim seng-gnang taritilonge Chima A-we bajaro donggipa *bus* nichakramona re-angengachim. Jakmindik dake nike ua salni songbadkoba ramaoniko breangaha. Noknako nikebebeode mai kattako aganchenggen ua chanchiangengachim.

*Bus* nichakramo Noknani uko sengsoengako ua nikataha.

“Ru-utahama?” ine ua Noknana ku-rang on-echengaha.

Nokna skotangko rokreke ka-dingsmitgipa mi-kang baksa “Ru-utkuja,” ine aganchakaha.

*Bus* sokbaon uamang uno gadoangaha. Ta-sri warichina re-angna man-gipa biapo uamang ong-onaha. Ramasamo jakkep palako nike Arim me-chikma saksaniko breaha. Ua an-tangni songbadko ra-sona

on-on, Nokna uko an-tangni kebina . . . gosa chipataha. Jakkep palgipa me-chikma . . . nike ka-dingsmitengachim; indiba Noknade uko nikskajaengachim.

Rama dilmaoni ma-eke uamang rong te angipa ramako re-angaha. Ramako ja-rike chibima jokani gimin biaprang rona an-sengbeachim. Chibima rikamrango ro-ongrang bang-en dongachim. *Picme* cha-na aro milsi pina namgipa biaprangba bang-en dongachim.

Ramao nikbagipa chibimani kosako uamang wariko nikeaha. Uamang wari rikamo rama . . . gipako re-angaha. Warini chirang chiring chere . . . ita joke chibimaoba braceachim. Wario na-tokrangni cho suako aro do-gepchirangni jroe roarangko uamang nie an-sengaha. Arim rong-plengrangko kole chiona goaton uarangni tang-angako sakgnian nirike roaha.

Ua biapo chagipa samsirang asonge rona so-omachim. Nokna ja-adipane samsio asonge ganako jaksitangchi tariaha. Ua an-tangni knikoba bikjole do-raja kime gita nitoe donataha. Uni brebagipa jakkeprangko cha-na Arimba samsio asongaha.

"Nang-ni porikkanade poraiengama?" ua jakkep cha-roroe Noknako sing-aha.

"Poraiede niengachim, indiba noko abian sasimani gimin jeko daknaba angade joksimja," Nokna aganchakaha.

"Do-meni bianade re-bagenkonba?" ua sing-taiaha.

“Jokode re·bagen,” ine Noknani aganengmitingo uni *mobile* gam·aha. Ua *mobile*ko ra·chake “Oh, ...am, da·o re·baenga, sengsochina aganbo,” ine aganate donataha.

“Sani *phonesa*?” Arim kattarangko name knarikjae sing·aha.

“Abini, mama re·baana. Noko nikjana angko sandiatenga,” Nokna mikgitchak pegitchak dake aganengachim.

Magapipa ine knaon Arimni mikkang ding·brau dakbaskaaha. Mahario mamatangrangni bil man·ako ua namen uiachim. Noknani mikgitchak pegitchak dakbaako nike uasa bate kenbataha, indiba nama dake “Noko agangijasa na·a re·baama?” ine sing·aha.

“Oe, aganbana man·jajok,” ine ka·sne ua aganchakengachim.

“Na·a indide seng·gnang re·pilna nangengama?” ua Noknako sing·taiaha.

“Im, indiba mejalo nang·na seata gitade ong·jachim,” Nokna Arimni suk ong·gija dongengako nike aganaha.

“Na·a indide tol·esa seatama?” ua Noknako jaksi otrachi todinge sing·aha.

“Oe,” ine Nokna ka·dingsmite mikron mikjap mikjap dake aganangkuaha, “Na·a angna badita ka·sabebea uko uinasa tol·e seatasachim, indiba..”

“Mai indiba?” ine ua sengnapgija Noknani katta matchotkujaon sing·taiaha.

“Nang·ko namniken angaba grongna re·baa,”  
Nokna aganchakaha.

Arim agandapna changjae jripirip dongaha.  
Noknaoniko kakketgipa kattarangko knae uni ka·tengo  
katchanian gapengachim. Uamang tangsimbitbit  
dakgipa warini chirangko dikdiksa chadenge nie roaba.  
Songtangni sepangon ua wari dongoba, Noknaba uko  
nikkujachim Ua skanggipa changna uko Arim baksa  
nina re·bae an·sengnikahachin. Ua wariko an·tangni  
*mobileo photo* ka·e ra·aha.

Warioni re·bapile uamang rama bidilmaona  
sokbaaha. Uamang okkriana ramasamo donggipa cha  
dokano napna dakachim; indiba Chima A·weko  
nappake re·gipa *bus* re·bachange jeljol gakatna  
nangaha.

Chima A·we bajarona sokeon, uamang garioni  
ong kataha. Nokna *bagtanganiko* Arimni songbadko  
ra·ongkate on·engachim. Chiga uko ramasame  
scootero asonge rosae nikataha. Uamangko kal·akatna  
ua gam e ahamataha. Nokna songbadko Arimna  
sketbakket on·e jakpa ripripe noktangchina dariange  
Chigako nikangjaha.

“Mai mosa, *kuch kuch hota hairma?*” ine  
Chiga Arimko uni sepangona re·baon kal·aksoaha.  
“Mejalo nang·ni ang’ baksa scootero re·na  
gonggijakoba da·osa uijok.”

“Arao, na a mosaba, nang·ni chanchia gitade  
ong·paja!”

“Indide nang·ni songbadara maidakesa Noknani  
*bago nape* lajok, grang dongama, mosa?”

“Fa·sri wari nina re·angesa na·a, hai, nokchi  
re gnok,” me Arim waki·mikki dake ripengtangko  
rmaha

“Anga nang·na ua warini gimin  
aganmangmangon na·ade ripeng man·esa  
sokangsrangjokkon,” Chiga uko bal·eke agananguaha.



## *Bak Dok*

**A**rim aro Noknani Ta·sri warichi re·angao ramasamo jakkep palgipara Chima A·we songni Chibrongma ong·achim. Ua me·chikmaskarangna Nokna aro Arimni warichi re·angako agane on·aha. Uni ja·manon, songo uamangni gimin katta gipna a·bachengaha.

Attamsao, Noknama *Self Help Group* tom·aona re·angaoni nokona re·bapilengachim. Ramao ua songni me·chikma saksako kokkreng ole re·baako grongaha.

“Ah, sari na·songde chawari man·taina am·enganakonde,” me·chikma kal·akjole Noknamako sing·aha.

“Sawasa ang’ demechik silpanampagijako ra·pagnok?” ine Noknama demechikni gimin darangonikoba knakujae ukosa sing·pilengachim.

“Arimko ka·enga inanasa, mejade Ta·sri warichin sakgni re·angtoka ineba.”

“Baosa, chingade uirikja, sawasa aganpila nang·nara?” ua jajrenga gnang sing·aha.

“Chibrong ma·gipaan nikrika ineba? Sari, angade bajarchi me·su palna re·ange sep hep *group* tom·aonaba sokangna man·jajokne. Maiko chanchichimachim?” ine me·chikma sing·aha. Ua an·tangni gana kondilaoniko ta·maku aro me·rakku bikapko ra·ongkatengachim.

“Oh, an·chingni gana dokatenggipako changgipin tom·anina skangde matchotatna nanggnokna. Uarangko pale an·chingni tangka paisarangko bariatgenna,” ine Noknama aganaha.

“Ah, namaignok indide, de re·angbone sari,” ine me·chikma aganaha. Ua an·tangni ta·makkuko me·rakku bikapo dol·giminko dislai tote wal·ku dimik·dimik ringroroangengachim.

Demechikni warichi pante grongna re·anga inako Noknama knae, “Chibrongmade sakobasa niksretama, bebekon aganjokma,” ine gisiktango chanchiengachim. Uko knaeba ua an·tangni nomil ong·mitingo, Noknapa sagiko Ta·sri wariosa grongchenganiko gisik ra·atpilengachim. Noknapa dedrangni chonkuengon siangaha. Nokko nirokkipa donggijako pa·sike Noknani abitang Nikche, uni mikchagipa Rangtongko seng·gnang segipa ra·aha. Noknama demechikko segipa ra·atna sikkujachim; indiba chol dongjae nie dongaha. Nikche aro

Rangtongmangni saksa kam-kam demechikko Dilsa mingachim.

Ua nokona sokon, uni adatang Tengtonpani *Maruti van* donako nikaha. Apsalio, ua adatangko uni chawari-demechik baksa agangrike rosoengako nikaha. Uni abitangni demechik Jamieba uano dongsoengachim. Tebil kosako donenggipa gue batao gue, pan aro sada temaba dongachim. Ua Dilsamani sambao dongenggipa morao asongecha.

“Mainabasa re·baama, roaiasama?” ua adatangko sing-aha.

“Oh, Dilsamani saakosa nina nappakaia. Ia Saldingmaba depanteming chingchi re·angchima ukoba salbajolenga,” ine Tengtonpa Jamieko aganengachim.

“Sagipade, da·ororode namkalengakon. Basakobade gitik gitak saataia, maian sapila uipilja,” Noknama aganaha. “Jojong Saldingde banosa roenga?” ine ua demechikko sing-aha.

“Da·sionin *video game* kal·engana, nogipa Dilsaba unon ropaengakon,” ine Jamie aganchakskaaha.

Noknama an·tangni ramao knabagipako aganna sika man·chakjae, golpoko dingtange aganaha, “Nonokode Arimko ka·enga ine knaenga, mamagipaan sing·sandie niangon namgenkon.”

“Ah! Arimko mamatangan demechikna kangenga inesa angade knaachim?” ine Tengtonpa agane ja·pingtangona gue batako ra·doe, gue cha·ataha. Ua jakpatangoba chunko sada nol·e cha·na nongjolaha.

“Indiba ia chasongode gritangko kangoba man·jaha. Demechikba an·tangna kanggipako namnikaosa,” Jamie aganskaaha.

“Noknaba segipa ra·ani somoiara ong·engjok, ra·oba namaia,” Dilsama aganpaaha.

“Imm, namaia oe,” Dilsapaba ku·rang imbika gnang aganaha. “Indiba jeko dakna skangba ja·tango chadengchengna man·osa nambatachim.”

“Uade ja·manon ong·angaigen,” Tengtonpa aganaha.

“Nonode Arimko mamatangni kangenga inakoba uياما uijama aro ong·ama ong·jama mamagipaan sing·e niangsrangbo,” ine Noknama adatangko jeta gnang agantaiaha.

“Indakode aganatbo,” Tengtonpa aganaha.

Noknako sandina ma·gipa uni kuturichina re·angaha. Nokna ba·ra ramgiparangko ite palango tarisoengachim. Ua ma·gipani napbaako niksojaha. Uni pakkre samgnio ma·gipa an·tangni jak samgniko gateaha. Unon ua an·tangni kni mikkangchi ga·akenggipako jakchi janggilchina jitpakate nidoon ma·gipako nikaha.

“Nang’ mama nang·ko aganatenga, nono,” ine ma·gipa Noknana aganaha.

Ba·ra taria matchotmane ua ma·gipa baksa apsaliona re·baaha. Ua agitchae dongenggipa morao asongaha. Dongsoenggiparangni golpo ka·aniba adita jrip dakchengaha. Mamatangni an·tangko sandiana Nokna gisiktango kenpilengachim.

“Nokna, nang·ko ianona okamatanide, na·a aro Arim namnikgrikenga ine knaara kakket ong·ama?” mamatang sing·na a·bachengaha.

Nokna uko knae uni mikkang ding·brao dakjolphila. Mamatangna tol·e aganoba ja·mano namtaijawa ineba ua chanchiengachim.

“Ong·ama ong·ja,” ma·gipa tap sing·ataiaha.

“Oe, ong·a, mama,” Nokna an·tangko ka·dongdraate aganchakaha.

“Arimkoara mamatang demechikna minge dakchaka inanasa? Ja·mano..” ine agandapangkuna sikoba Tengtonpa dontongchengaha. “Jeko dakoba name dakbo, ma·drang-maharina kratchaataniko ra·banabe. Chingaba re·on namaignok, Saldingko rimebo,” mamatang Noknana aganaha.

Mamatang baksa Jamie aro uni depante gario re·angako Nokna aro gipinrang nirikaha. Uamangni re·angmano Nokna kuturitangona re·baaha. Uni gisiko ma·manti chanchianirang gapengachim. Arimko mamatang kanga inakode ua knakujachim. Arimba iani giminde janapa dongkujachim. Ua an·tangni *mobileko* koldoe Arimni *numberko* sikdepaha.

“Mainaba ka·ama?” Arim *mobileko* ra·chake sing·ataha.

“Nang·ko nang’ mama Marcyna kanga inara kakket ong·ama?” Nokna kattarangko uina sikanian bang·bate joljol sing·atengachim.

“Da·odipetde mamaba agana dongja aro chinga an·tangtanga namnikgrika dongja. Sawasa agana nang·nara?” ua Noknako sing·pangpilataha.

“Manderangni aganako knaesa, ja·mano nang’ mama aganjokode. Da·o donchengna, ja·mano agangriktaina,” ine Nokna agangrikako dontongaha.

Arimni an·tangna ka·saaniko ua uiahachim, indiba Arim uni mamatangchi uoni ekangatako man·naba donga ine kenchaksoengachim. Gisik jrioba ua an·tangni porikkana poraina ki·tapko badaloba gisikan chinapjaengachim; unigimin ua babilsini kamrangko ka·na asongaoni chakatangaha.

## *Bak Sni*

“Jojongko rimangjawane?” ine Jamiema uni demechikko Do·meni biachina re·na tariako nike sing·aha.

“Man·si man·dik dakaigen, nokon nang·ming rosoaichina,” ine Jamie agane an·tangni *kithagko* ra·e nokoni ong·katangaha.

Jamie an·tangni depanteko uni ma·gipa niroksorongani gimin donangengachim. Ua songo me·chikrangni nonga pilanirangko palachim. Bia ka·nasigiparangkoba ua tariatrongachim. Ua an·tangde bia ka·manjae, an·tangna batanggimin salrangko ramao gisik ra·angaha.

Skul re·mitingo ua saksa roriko mikchaachim. Ua rori Chima A·we bajaro ba·ra dokan dakachim. Skulchi re·gija ua rori baksa dokano roe dongrongaiachim; indiba skul jokani somiode gipinrangming nokona apsan re·bapilrongachim.

Uni indake dakenganiko uni ma·a-paade uijachim. Uni pagipa army *retired* ong·achim. Ua an·tangni matburing sikar ka·na jakkalgipa slaini nolko su·siksike tarisimaiachim. Ua ka·onangode uchin jekoba gona am·aiani gimin nokni manderang una kenchakrongachim.

Uni rorina mikchaengako pagipa manderangoniko knaaha. Pagipa ka·onange bajarona re·angon, uko rori baksa dokano golpo ka·e roengako nikaaha aro uamang sakgnikon dokahachim.

Uni ja·manon, roride dokan chipe gipin biapchina katangaha. Nokni manderang uni jakari ong·gijaniko ja·manosa uirikaha. Indakesa ua depanteko man·rikaha.

Jamie an·tangna batanggimin salrangko gisik ra·atoba uko maming dakeba namatpilna amjawaha ine an·tangko ka·dimeate, Do·meni biaona ja·ku ga·angaha.

\* \* \*

Do·meba pringni chakate uni biani salna Isolko mitelaha. Uni ja·mano, ua kelki oe a·palchiniko niataha. Adita pante-me·trarang basao asongchakaniko tariengachim. “lachi chi ra·ba; cha rita minkujama?” ine manderangni jikjakarangkoba ua knaengachim.

Nokni rama mikkangchipak ‘Rimchaksoa,’ aro janggilchipako, “Mitela,” ine doktao sea donggipako tarienggipao Arimkoba ua nikatengachim. Uni pagipa



aro gipinrang awen-jawen re·roroe, manderangna kamrangko mesoke on·engachim.

Seng·gnangan biana tarie dongsona nanggen ine chanchiroroe Do·me palangtango asongeaha. Ua kenchong ra·e kni chitengachim. Uni janggi tanganio nokdang rikani ua salonin a·bachengengani gimin ua gisiktango kusinian bang·batengachim.

Rama chel·ani gimin gnigipa do·gisikna skangan, Jending aro uni ma·drang-mahariko *buso* rimbana Do·meni mamatang aro Chiga re·angaha. Jending aro uni nokni manderangko salnade, Kalen uni *Tata Wingerko diesel* ra·e jakkalchina on·atahachim.

“Do·me chakatujama ?” ine Do·me uni kuturini do·gako doktike ma·gipani okamengako knaaha.

Do·ga oaton ua Jamieko ma·gipaming nike, “Ah, na·a sokbajokne?” ine sing·aha.

Ma·gipa uamang sakgniko done re·angaha.

“Nang·ko tariatsona, inesa seng·gnangan re·baaijok,” Jamie kuturichi nape aganaha.

“Namaiahaba.”

“Tango Noknaba re·bagenkon,” ine Jamie agane chokkio asongaha.

“Sokbaode na·an niatpabone,” Do·me aganaha.

Biao mi bijak songna manderang chankolrangko dingtang dingtang biaprango tariaha. Biana ra·gipa wak, matchurangko salsagipaon ritap ritap doke, rata tetanirangko dakahachim. Uarangko song·na·channa manderang taribildangtokaha. Me·chikmarang mi

song·e, uarangko e·salrango depe kerarango chimongsoaha.

Salchubaahaon Chima A·weni pante-me·trarangba cha aro cha·anirangko tarisona re·baaha. Songni bi·sarang bia ka·ako nina re·batokaha. Indakmitingo Do·meko seng·gnang Jamie tariatengachim. Biani jakstemko ra·bitgipa aro *snow spray* satgipa me·chik bi·sarangko sakgipinrang tariatskaengachim.

Saljatchi ong·na skang Jending aro uni mahariko salbagipa garirang sokbaaha. Uamangko nokni ramao Chigani ma·a-paa aro ma·drangrang salam ka·e rimchaksoaha. Uamangna tarisogipa bibalrangko me·chikrang patsoaha.

Jendingna tarichakna kuturi ge·sako donsoaha. Uanon uni *suit* gisimkoba donsoaha. Pante-me·trarang sokbagiparangna cha aro cha·anirangko on·aha. Cha·man-ringmane manderangni neng·takengon Jending aro Do·me bia ka·na tarimanaha.

Pamong uamangko gilja noko sengsoengachim. Jendingko uni ma·a-paa pamongni mikkangona rimangaha. Do·meko pagipa jakkandile gilja nokningona rimnapangon, bia ka·ao dongsoenggipa manderang chakatsoaha. Do·me baksa dongchapgipa me·chik bi·sarang uni ja·man ja·rikangaha.

Jending aro Do·meko jik aro se ong·na pamong ku·rachakataha. Uamang tarie donsogipa jakstem-rangko patgrikataha. Bia ka·manon, me·chik bi·sarang *snow spray*rangko manderango satdapaha.

Giljao bia ka·mane, Jending aro Do·me noko tarigipa biani basaona re·baaha. Uamang *Wedding cakeko* rate saksa sakgipinna du·grike cha·aha. Uamangko grongna boksirangko ra·e re·bagiparangko uamang kusi ong·e rimchaksoengachim.

Arim pangnaba songo bia ka·ako nikkujae mande bang·ana aiao inmanpilengachim. Ua mande jinmana mi on·gipachi re·ange niaha. Bakra dakgipa biapo manderangna mi on·engachim. Me·chikmarang bi·satangtangko rimbite mi on·engachim. Biaona re·bagijagiparangnaba bijakrangko e·salo srome ra·anggiparangba dongengachim.

“Iachi wak bijak, iachiba do·o bijak,” ine manderang jikjakengachim.

Joreng karaio bijakko detomroroe manderangko, “Na·ara wak ma matchu?” ine sing·engachim. Unon saoba “Wak,” saoba “Matchu,” aro saoba “Angade do·osa,” ine bikan manderang uni sing·anina aganchakengachim. Joreng uamangna mi cha·topilgija bijakrangko sadape donangengachim.

Mi cha·na re·bagiparang bija chi ra·a gita gitap·gitap sokbadapengachim. Mi bijakrangko chi joka gita on·engani gimin cha·na bon·gija galanirangan batengachim. Manderangni jikjakani aro songni·nokni achakrangni mi·bijak galarangko cha·na chikgrikanian gapchipengachim.

Arim jinmana mi on·enggiparangna sko sa·dikchake re·bapilaha. Ua Chiga baksa

nokchamerangna mi on·na basaoniko uamangko rimna re·baon, Noknako Jamie baksa asongengako nikaha.

“Asongsokubone,” ua Noknana aganaha.

“Angade Nokna saksanani giminsa asonge ropacnga, kam dakchakna man·kujaenga,” ine Jamie aganengachim.

“Ong·aiaba, na·ara da·sipringnin ka·engaba,” ine Chigasa Arimko miksichipate aganatskaaha.

Nokna uni abitang baksan Do·me aro Jendingko grongaha. Do·me Gatseko sandisoona, “Attamo re·bana am·engana,” ine Nokna aganchakaha. Biani mikoba Jamie Noknako cha·dilaha. Arim aro Chigade uchibik iachibik kamrangko niroke, darangkoba name simsakna man·jaengachim.

Attamangachibara Jendingni maharirang *buso* songtangchi re·angpilaha. Kamrang choljokkale Arim Noknako sandina basaona re·bataion uko nikejaha. Unon uni ra·bitenggipa *mobileba* SMSna gam·aha. Una simsakgija ua Noknako ramachipak re·angama ine sandiangskaaha. Unon ua Kalenni Gatseko *bikeo* sale re·baengako niksoaha.

“Bachisa re·angchima?” Arim sing·aha.

“Chingade da·osa re·baenga,” Kalen aganchakaha.

“Noknamangko nikama?”

“Jamie baksa gario re·angengako nikrikengade,” Gatse aganchakaha.

“Hai indide, uachi asongna,” ine Arim suk ong·jaengoba uko mesokgija uamangko biani basaona rimangaha.

Kalenmang baksa asonge roengon, Arim an·tangni *mobile*ona SMS sokbaako gisik ra·atpilaha. Ua *mobile*ko ra·ongkate SMSko nion, “*Abi saenga, nokchi seng·gnang re·pilangenga,*” ine Noknani see donangakosa nikaha.

## *Bak Chet*

“**A**nga ojako rikangtaienga,” ine Rangtong nokni manderangna agane scooter salangaha.

Rangtong ojako rime nokona re·bapilon uni jikgipani ok saanirang namjabatengachim. Oja sam on·enio namkalatna man·jae jakgipin donga inesa aganengachim. Tengtonpaba namchiktangni saa bilongako kobor man·e sokbaaha. Ua namchiktangni saa biljimako nike songjinmani *hospital*ona ra·ange sanatna sikengoba, Rangtongan jetojaengachim.

Rangtong gisiktangode jiktangna oja gipinoniko sam ra·e niangkuna sikengachim. Ua songo donggipa skulniba Secretary ong·achim. Skulni *lottery* kal·atnasigipana *ticket* pale tangkarangko man·soengachim. Uarangba uni nanga korosrangon napangengachim.

Tengtonpa Nikcheni saako nie dongna man·jaha. Ua mosatangko manigija, namchiktangko an·tangni gario songjinmani *hospital*ona ra·angaha. Uamang baksa Noknama, Jamiema aro Rangtong re·angaha. Noknakode Dilsako niroksona noko donangaha.

*Doctorrang* Nikcheko uni bika nosto ong·ahani giminsa saenga ine parakaha; indiba sananiko man·na skangan ua a·gilsakko watangaha. Rangtong mosatangni kamko namnikjaoba, *doctorrang*ni aganakoba beberagija daknaba man·jaengachim. Jaksraprikjani gimin Tengtonpaba namchiktangna A·chik samko jakkalkuna nangengachimma, *doctorn*i samrangchin a·bachengaonin sanaton namgengchimma uko uisokna amjaha.

Nokchina Nikcheni siako uiatchengna am·oba *phone network* dongjae man·jaha. Mikka jimeming goera goode Chima A·weo antisarangna *mobile* ka·na man·jachim. *Ambulance* sandie uamang sigipako *hospital*oniko ra·ongkatbaaha.

Walsimsimangon noksul-songsuloni manderang Noknamangni nokona re·baaha. Uamang sagipako songjinmachi ra·angani koborko ra·na re·batokachim. Jamie Noknana kam dakchakna sokbaaha. Nokona ma·gipamangni sokbaosa, Nokna abitangni siako uiaha. Ua an·tang baksa kal·rim rorime dal·bagipa abitang dongjahani gimin namen ka·beaha.

*Ambulance*oniko Nikcheni be·en bikapko nokningchina ra·napangaha. Nokna apsalio bamchikkope dongrikengachim. Ua an·tangni ka·tongo

dukchi su·pekako man·engoba, mikrononi mikchirang ga·akjaengachim. Jamie uko nikate uni sambaona re·baaha. “Nokgipani sikana agre an·chingde mamingkoba dakna amjajok,” ine Jamie nogipani janggilko doktope aganengon, Noknani mikchirang tingtotbana a·bachengaha. Jamie an·tang duk ong·oba, nogipako ka·dimeatna jotton ka·e uko uni kuturiona dilbaaha.

Nikcheni siako songo uiatna siani kontako dokaha. Songni manderang siaona re·bae nokni manderangko ka·dimeataha aro uano walsengtokaha. Unwalon, chel·ao donggipa maharirangnade mande watate kobor on·ataha.

Pringgipino maharirang Noknamangni nokona sokbaaha. Noksul songsulrangba duk chakrimna am·bol jakbakprak aro cha chini ra·e re·baaha. Sia bon·ao, matchu·matte dokania duk man·gipa nokdangni gam·jinko bon·ata ine nikoba Tengtonpa songo dakrongako gelna man·jaha. Ua Noknamangni matchu mangsako me·aparangko dokataha. Be·en bitin rata·teta chu·ongkujawa ine nike ua an·tang nokoni wakkoba Chibrongpako rim·baate dokdapatsrangaha.

Rangtong noko segun rate donggipa doktako jikgipako gopatna bakos tariataha. Tengtonko goprano a·kol cho·giparangko nirokna donaha.

Songoni adita chel·ao, a·timbo dakgipa biapo songni goprang dongachim. Uano dal·dalgipa bolrangko brane done biaprang ka·sinachim. Goprang a·kol cho·na gitichima ra·e panterang aro me·aparang Tengton baksa



re·angaha. Uamang cha·chini rite ringjolna me·dikrangkoba ra·angjolaha.

Arim Nikcheni siako kobor man·e suk ong·gija dongengachim. Chigara nogipani bia matchote Shillongchi re·angahachim. Unigimin ua saksan Noknako grongena pagija dongengachim. Ua Do·me aro Jendingni siachi re·na am·ako uie, uamangni rimakosa gisiktango nichakengachim. Uni officeba jani gnigipa sonibal sal ong·e dongjachim.

“Chingade siachi re·engjok, dada na·ara?” Do·me uko sing·ataha.

“Na·song baksa re·paon namgen,” ine Arim nokoni ong·katangaha.

\* \* \*

“Ia gita re·babo jong Jendingmangara,” ine me·apa saksa uamangko Noknamangni nokni sa·raona ga·tapon okamatengachim. Ua me·apa uamangko sa·ra jatchikon re·dilangaha. “Uanba Arim,” ine manderangni sakgipinrangna agane on·engako Arim knaangpilengachim.

Nikcheko pujue donenggipa kuturiona uamang napangaha. Arim uano chadenge dongengon Nokna·ma·gipa aro ma·jongtangko sigipako donenggipa sambao dongengako nikaha; indiba ua Noknakode nikjaengachim.

Unomiting Jamie kuturiona re·baaha. Ua pul tarigiminrangko manggisiko pindape donenggipa ba·ra gipok kosako doneaha. “Hai pul tarigipachina, uchin Noknaba donga,” ine Jamie Do·meko rimaha.

“Hai, indide,” ine Do·me Jamie baksa ong·katbaaha. Jending aro Arimba uko ja·rikbaon “Na·songara?” ine ua sing·aha.

“Chinga uano asonge roeskagen,” ine Jending aganchakaha. Arim Noknako grongna Do·me baksa re·angna sikengoba nirike dongaiaha.

“Iachi asongebo,” ine me·apa saksa uamangko letchu ja·pangona okamataha.

“Basakonisa sianggipara saaha?” Jending asonge rosoenggiparango sing·aha. Ua bataoniko guekoba kole cha·atengachim.

“Saade ru·utahakon, saako rim·na man·ningjaesa ja·manchakjokkon,” me·aparangoni saksa aganchakaha.

“Bika nosto ong·anama?” sakgipin me·apa sing·ataha.

“Am, ua *liver cirrhosis* ingipa ong·ahana?” ine Nikcheni saako aganchenggipa me·apa agandapaha.

“Da·ororode je saaba namningja, sam tatarangan namjama?” sakgipin me·apa sing·ataha.

“Oc, mitam samrangde *duplicaterangba* dongengana, aro *doctorni prescription* donggijade jebasi samko bree ringna nangjana. An·chingna bang·en mikrakatanirangko on·engaba,” ine Arimba golpo ka·ataha

Siao gilja ka·na manderang sa·rao tom·dakaha. Ua somoiosa Arim Noknako Jamie baksa nikataha. Nokna dukchi su·pekako man·e uni mikkangko Arim dingtange nikpilahachim. Uni mikgilrang grapani

ripompilengachim. Uko nikaton Arimni mikronoba mikchirang nakatbaaha. Rangtong uni demechikko de·tome dongengachim. Ua jikgipako gopatenggipa bakos sambao jadasika gita gilja ka·ao dongengachim.

Gilja matchoto, Nikcheni mikkangko siaona re·bagiparang aro nokni manderang bon·chote nirikaha. Uamang pilakan graptokaha. Uni ja·mano, Nikcheko goprano gopna ra·angako mitam manderang ja·rikangaha.

Duk chakrimna re·bagiparang nokni manderangko gronge, chapa bil·a gita tangka paisarangko dakchakna on·aha. Chel·aoni re·bagiparangna agre, sepango donggipa noksul·songsulni manderang mi·bijak song·giminko cha·na·ringna jechake re·angtokaha. Gopranchi a·kol chona re·anggiparangnade Tengtonan mi·bijakrangko sandie on·skaaha.

Arim Noknako gronge re·na gisiktango sikachim; indiba Noknani nokningchi grape napangako nirike dongaiaha. Changgipino grongaignok inc chanchie ua Do·me aro Jending baksan nokona re·bapilaha.

Rangtongni aro uni sianggipa jikni maharirang cha·man·ringmanaha. Uamang apsan asongrimtaie sal somoi gipino mahari dolgni chanchirimna tarikko manchisoe donaha. Kamrang matchotmane uamangba noktangtangchina re·angtokaha.

## *Bak Sku*

“**D**ilsako nirokna changgipako man·osa namachim,” ine Rangtong mosatang Tengtonpana aganengachim. Uamang on·songrikani gimin golpo ka·engmitingo Noknaba ua biapona Dilsako skulchi watatna tariate rimbaaha. Ua an·tangba D.S.C.ni porikkako sena ua salo nangengachim. Ua babilsiona mi cha·na re·angpilaha.

“Chinga darangkoba sandisrangade dongkuja; indiba mahari dolgnini chanchiaosa pangchakbatgen,” ine Tengtonpa Noknani re·angmano aganengachim. Uni gisiko Rangtongni aganania maikoba donmitape agananiba dongama ineba chanchiatengachim.

“Na·a asongangkubo, anga nonoko skulchi salange donekuna,” ine Rangtong re·na chakataha.

“Angaba re·aignok, Dilsa abogipani saakosa nipakjolna napaia. Biara noko a·sel ong·aonin name tusina man·jani gimin saa napasade.”

“Mipring cha·angbo mamara, anga tariatna,”  
Nokna babilcioni aganataha.

“Cha·angjawajok, da·on cha·na ringna  
mikkang,” ine ua jechake Rangtong aro uni demechik  
baksaan nokoni ong·katangaha.

Tengtonpa Noknamangni nokoni an·tangni gariko  
salangengon, Rangtong baksa agangrikako  
chanchiroroangaha. Ua nogipani nokona on·songna  
sandiano, A·chikni niam gita skanggipao noko donggipa  
namchiktangko sing·na nanganiko nikatengachim. Ua  
an·tangan Noknani Arimko namnikengakoba  
uimanahachim. Darangoniba champenganirang  
dongjaode uamangko bia ka·ate on·naba ua sikengachim.

Rangtongna on·songaniko dakjaoba ua an·tangan  
nokni chra dal·batgipa ong·e niamko chu·sokatja gita  
daskagen ine nikatengachim. Uko chu·sokatnaba sako  
aro baoniko rimbaskae chu·sokatgen, ua  
chanchisokjaha. Sal aro somoi soko jekoba jinma melie  
chu·sokatna nangaigrok ine ua chanchiroroe re·bae  
noktangona sokangaha.

\* \* \*

Rangtong uni demechikko skulona salange done  
Chima A·we bajarona sokbaaha. Ua cha dokano napon  
songo skatang dake rogipa panterangko nikaha.

“Na·simangde ua Boda Kapoormingde rojama?”  
Rangtong uamangming golpo ka·ataha.

“Saming baksa ?” panterangoni saksa sing·aha.

“Uara Arimara!” ua aganchakaha.

“Oh, dal·a daka donganan, rorimja chingade,”  
ine pante saksa aganchakaha.

“Alamala *halfsana* donangbo gumeara,  
da·ororode na·an chijenge roa dakengade,” saksagipa  
pante Rangtongko kal·akjole tangka bi·chrakaha.

“*Halfsa* mai, una baten na·simang angni  
ge·etako dakode on·genchim?” ua aganchakaha.

“Maiko?” ine uamang uina sike apsan sing·aha.

“Tengtonko grongbo, anga bio gimikkon  
aganatgen,” ine Rangtong dokanoni ong·katangaha.  
Unon ua dokan mikkango Tengtonni kni rokkaronge  
re·baako niksoe, “Mainasa knikoara rokkarongjok?”  
ine sing·soaha.

“Maina ong·gen, ding·ana,” ine namrengpile  
Tengton aganchakengachim. Kni rokkaronge uni skoo  
banoba dalgep su·gep dakenganikode ua  
simsakjaengachim.

Rangtong Tengtonni nikgijao una ka·dingsik  
dake, “Uanba namaijok, anga na·songna kam on·na  
am·enga, hai ramao aganjolna,” ine agane uko an·tangni  
scootero gatangaha.

\* \* \*

Attamo Nokna porikka semane, uni segimino  
chu·sokna ka·donga paksa, ka·dongja paksa dake  
nokona re·baengachim. Nokona sokna skang ua  
ramao donggipa a·kiloko ga·kilokmane, *bag* gobranga

gita ga·akaha. Ua ja·bnenge ga·ake, jakasichini ja·a natsikkninge mate an·chi ong·engachim. Ua sepango chagipa sambangguri bijakrangko aksropsrope reprepe bitchiko matgipao nongatengon jroe sa·dikengachim. Saknaana ja·a teng·dik teng·dik dake ua nokni sa·raona sokbaaha.

“Banosa ga·akbajok?” Rangtong uko niksoe sing·soaha. Ua e·ching ma·gitchamko bilna gitchi ra·e barioniko sandisoengachim. “Da·mo anga rajamuri ake ra anggen.”

Nokna an·tangni ga·akbaana an tangkon ka·onangpilengachim. Dilsa skul jokbae abotangni kuturio rosoengachim. Uamangde uni ga·ake re·baako niksojahachim.

Nokna kuturitango nape morao asongaha. Nokona re·bapilmitingo ramao ua Gatsekoba skul joke re·baako grongaha. Ua Arimni gimin kobor man·bajolachim. Chigani Shillongchi re·angni ja·mano, Arimara chu pekkamaigipa Tengton baksasa robataiengaha ine knabae ua duk ong·aha. Nokna an·tangni dukni somoirango Arimara maina ripeng baseanioba simsakjaenga uko uisokjaengachim.

Ua an·tangde abitangni siaonin skulchiba chutti ra·e re·angkujachim. Ua Arimkoba niktaikujachim. Minggipinara, noko ma·gipa sakamengani gimin ua nokoni ong·katna jokjaengachim. Arim maina uko nokona re·bae grongeskajaenga ukoba ua uisokjaha. Haida ua nokni manderangnaba kratchanikakon ine ua

chanchiatengachim. Ua Arimna *phone* ka·naba *networkan* namsimjae man·jaengachim.

Arimko ua an·tangoni chel·angenga gita basakoba nikatskaengachim. Iandakgipa chanchia-nirang una sokbae uni gisiko jajrengatengoba, Arimni name janggitanganiko niksona ka·dongsoaniko ua watgaljaengachim.

Gansre chinsree ua babilsichina re·angaha. Rajamuri bijakrangkoba ua tebilo nikengachim. Ua chankolo wal·ki dongako spororoe wa·al sikchengaha. Rajamuri bijakrango ua tobeko nonge uarangko wa·alo angaha. Uni ja·mano, ua an·tangni ja·bnenggipa ja·ako nol·aha. Sa·dika on·tisa nambatangon ua cha tarie Dilsa aro ma·gipana ra·angaha.



## *Bak Chikking*

“**O**fficechima?” Tengton Arimko Chima  
A·we bajaro nike sing·aha.  
“Da·alde an·sengjaeming re·angja, kni  
ratnasan ong·katbaenga,” Arim aganchakaha.  
“Na·ara?” ine ua Tengtonko sing·skaaha.

“Angni salo changsa ianona ong·katba-  
rongakode, na·an uia,” Tengton aganchakaha.

Salgipino Nokna aro Rangtongni maharirang  
tom·e chanchiani donga inakoba Arim Tengtononiko  
knamanahachim. Ua gisiktango unasa suk  
ong·batjaengachim. Uni Tengton baksa roanide, ua  
darangonikoba Noknani gimin knajae uonikosan kobor  
ra·skaengachim. Indaken ua basakobarang Tengton  
baksa ringa cha·anio bak man·engachim.

Tengton una Noknako Rantongna sing·e on·na  
am·engaha ineba agane on·ahachim. Biana

jakstemrangkoba tariatengaha ine ua Tengtononikon knamane jajrengbatengachim. Ua an·tangan Noknamangni nokona re·ange Nokna baksa agangriknara nokni manderangna pa·jaengachim. Uni mikkang bimangba chanchisima gita dake ong·sibatengachim. Uni ku·simang aro kniko ratgija done ro·batahachim.

“Da·alba asongtaigenma?” Tengton uko sing·taiaha.

“Eh, tangkakon kni ratnasan ra·baaia,” Arim aganchakaha.

“Kni ratnara tangka nangama? Songo panterang kni ratna changgiparangan bang·pret, uamangko ratataibo, hai... asongerotaina,” ine ua Arimni jakko sale rimdraangaha.

Arim gisiktangosa, “Oe, kni ratna changgipa A·chikrangan kni ratani dokanko kuliatode uamangni janggi tanganina chol ong·pilgenchim,” ine chanchiroroe Tengton baksa re·na sikbrejaoba re·angaha. Uamangni napanggipa dokanara, nok mikkango bosturangko palachim. Dokan nokningchide cha aro chukoba bree ringjolna man·achim.

Dokan ning·o skatang dake rogipa panterang sakgittamba chu ringsoengachim.

“Iachi asongebo, mande bang·on golpoba me·subata,” uamangoni saksa Tengtonmangko niksoe .kamataha.

“Uchian asongbebena,” ine Tengton uko rimaha. Arim Tengtonko mikkangchake ramachipaknade

janggilate asongaha. Uamangna glass ge·gni aro chu belati te·sako dokan nokgipa ra·bae tebilo doneaha.

“Mainasa jrip dongkamaienga, mosade? Nang·kode chanchisima gita niksrangaijok?” panterangoni saksa Arimko sing·mika dakaha.

“Na·aba indakaigenchim, nang·ni ka·satang togiode,” ine Tengtonsa aganchake glasso donggipa chuko ringengachim.

“De, Noknara darangkoba ra·a inakode knakujachimba,” sakgipin tap aganataha.

“Noknani ra·a ra·gijaniara angchi mai sa·dikpaa,” Arim jripjrip dongangkuna man·jae aganataha.

“Unigiminan angade nomilranganide chel·e dongsrangaia, pante roon badita suk,” ine panterangoni saksa aganadake an·tangni glasso chu rudapataha. Ua pantean ramachiko niate, “Aia! uakode Nokna gita angade nikatenga,” ine jaksi ote gipinrangna aganengachim.

Arim asongatangoni an·pile niaton Nokna aro Dilsako nikataha. Rangtongni scooterkoba ramao nikate ua ka·onangbataha. Ua bik anpilitaie an·tangni glasso donggipa chuko chi ringa gita ringgrangataha.

“Iachinan re·baenga,” ine sakgipin pante agansoengachim. Arimde nichikkome uni glassko rim·engoba jak til·tilbana a·bachengaha.

Arimni gisiko Noknako Rangtongna salgipino sing·e on·telaingnok ine chanchiengachim. Nokna uanan dokanoniko bosturangko bree tarisoenga ine ua ka·a

ding·baaha. Badita ning·tue ua Noknana ka·saa, inditan ua somoio uko ka·onangani aro namnikgijani batskaaha.

Arimni gisik ding·engako nika, “Sakobade nikja dakaiengjok,” ine panterangoni saksa kal·akdapattaiaha. Ua kattarang ching·enggipa wa·alna am·bol so·doata gita Arimni gisikko ding·batataha.

“Nokna na·a...” ine ua jaktango chu glassko ra·e chakataha.

“Arim ..... Arim..... maiasa da·oara ?” Tengton chakate uko salrikaha.

Nokna unosa Arimko nikatchengaha. Ua Arimni jako ra·bitenggipa glassoni churang ga·akengakoba nikate an·skitpilaha. Changsaba Arimni ka·onangako aro chu pekako ua nikkujachim. Ua mamingkoba aganna changpiljae ku·siktangko jakchi rim·kipe dongengachim. Arimni mikronrang uko wa·al kamna am·enga gita niatengako ua nikate kenbataha.

“Nokna na·a maikai angna indake daka?” ine Arim kattarangko bingbang aganengachim.

“Na·an angni ka·saanio ka·dongjahaode angara sao ka·dongkuna,” ine Arim duk ong·a gngang agantaiaha. Uni chu pekaba batengjokchim.

Nokna namen kenaha aro bajaro an·tangko kratchaatana dukba man·aha. Ua mikkang gitchakbae mikchirang uni peo tingtotbaaha.

“Baba, baba, chu ringgipa adekode kajia ka·engjok,” ine Dilsa pagipaona katange aganeaha. Rangtong gue dokano rosoengachim. Ua demechik baksa re·baon, Noknani dokano grape dongsoengako nikaaha.

“Maiasa ong·enga da·oara? Hai na·song ma·desa scooterona re·sobo,” ine ua Nokna aro Dilsako watatsoaha. Tengtonni Arimko rim·e dongengakoba ua nikengachim.

Panterangoni saksa uona re·bae, “Mamingba ong·ja, nang·ni on·atgipa tangkachin chinga ringe nang·ni nangnika gitan ong·ataha,” ine ka·sne aganaha. Unosa Rangtong uni chol dakanio chu·sokna man·ahanina, mamingkoba agangija jakrani jaksibimako una mesoke donangaha.

Nokona sokeon Dilsa abotangona katange, “Abo, abo, chu ringgipa saksa adeko bajaro kajia ka·a,” ine aganeaha. Dilsa abotang saa namkale merong basec dongsoengachim.

“Sawasa nono ?” ine ma·gipa uko sing·aha. Nokna una aganchakgija joljol kuturitangchina napange ka·siksike grapeaha.

“Oh, ua Arimsa na·a, mainan indake dakpila,” ine Rangtongsa aganchaksaaha. Ua dokanoniko ra·bagipa bosturangkoba babilsio doneaha.

Arim inako knae Noknama beberanan man·piljaha. “Maiasa dakangsrangengaha da·o uara!” ine ua saksan ong·oba chanchiatangko gam·e aganatmanengachim.

Attamo, Rangtong an·tangni scooterko sale nokoni ong·katangtaiaha. Ua skulni *lottery ticket*rangko songo paleaha. Salgrochipak aram simbae mikka ga·akbana a·bachengaha. Ua *rain coat*ko ra·bana simsakjahachim. Jamiemangni apdualona

sokon, uamangni nokon mikka chakna ua re·angaha. Uni scooterni *light* ching·baako niksoe achakrang sing·soaha.

“Sawasa?” ine Jamie *torch light* nate nokni do·gacholoni niataha. Rangtong ine ua uiate, “Scooterko chingni gari dongipao donatbo, sosigen,” ine aganataha. Rangtong uanona scooterko salangon Jamiepani jakkalenggipa *Mahindra PIK-UP*koba nikjaha. Scooterko done ua an·tangni *bag* chongipako jako ra·e nokbimongona re·angaha.

“Nang·pamang dongjama?” Rangtong Jamieo sing·aha.

“Ong·katangtoka,” ine Jamie agane mikka sosibaako ripakna una *towel* on·soaha. Saldingara mi cha·soengachim.

“Mama Tengtonpaba da·sio re·baachim. Ai babamangara aboko songchiko grongna re·angtoka. Knal pringsa mahari chanchiaonade sokbana am·enga,” ine Jamieni aganengon bijoliba siaha. “Aia, ia bijoliba on·tisan mikka wa·na nangaia, siaiade!”

“Indakaigen an·chingde biaptango *Hydro Electricity Project*ko man·kuja dipetde. *Lottery ticket* paljolesa nang·paming agangrike ronasa re·baachim,” ine Rangtong Jamieni lem so·mitingo aganskaengachim.

“Angmingde agangrikani dongjama?” Jamie kal·akjole aganatengachim. Ua pagipani *whisky* ra·e dongipako, “Sin·a namkalanggen, ringatbo,” ine Rangtongna glasso ru·e on·aha.

Mi cha·mane Salding ma·gipaona re·baaha. Uamang ma·ningsa *lottery ticketo* mai boksirangko donsoa uko gisiknange niengachim. “Gong·chikingnade *bikerangba* dongani gimin namjokmo. Salding na·aba *lottery* man·ode skulchi *bikeo* re·na man·genba, kinggni ra·rike ninamo?” Jamie depanteko ku·mongaha.

“Na·song nokmarangan brejaode sawa bon·atgen,” ine Rangtong Jamieni *ticket* kinggni brerikna am·ako knae suk ong·gija aganaha.

Jamieni chu tarie on·ako ringmane, “Mikkaba namkalangaha, re·e nion namaignokkon,” ine Rangtong aganengachim.

“Ma nang na simbrasogen?” Jamie jaksamsachi tusina sikenggipa depanteko rimrokroroe sing·aha.

“Oh, nonode abotangmingan tuisoaign,” ine ua aganchakaha.

“Indide mi cha·angbo, anga jojongko tusiate donechengkuna.”

Mi cha·mane, Rangtong kelkini pordako salsrete a·palchiniko niataha. Mikka wa·ani aro riprapanirangan bang·batbaskaengachim. “Re·angna man·aigengchim, da·ora nang·kosa...” ine Rangtong aganengachim.

“Angko?” ine Jamie ku·rang on·chakaha, “Ihing batesa....”

“Maia batesa?”

“Anga gisiktango nang·na chanchiani dongachim,” ine ua Rangtongna gisiktangoniko paraksrangaha.

Rangtong uni nachikolo knaenggipa kattarangko beberanan amjaengachim, indiba Jamie una kakketkon

aganenga ineba uiengachim. Ua somoio uni gisikko Jamieni kamrang aro ku·rangchin salnapangako man·engachim.

“Mainasa jrip dongenga?” Jamie uko sing·taiaha.

Unosa ua deldik dake, “Knalo anga maiko agangen, chanchisoaba dongkujaenga,” ine golpoko dingtange aganaha.

“Baseanide nang·osa,” Jamie aganchakaha.

\* \* \*

Arim noko tusinapkujae salo ong·anggiminrangko gisik ra·atpilengachim. Shillongoni re·baaoni ua an·tangni kam bewalrango dingtange nikengoba uko ong·e nikataiengachim. Mikka wa·ani aro kimpretanirang on·tisa nambatangon ua an·tangni *mobileo* git knae rona uko *switch on* ka·aha. Adita ja·mano, uni *mobileona* mamatangni *phone* sokbaaha. “Hello mama,” ine ua ku·rang ka·sinkale *phoneko* ra·chakaha.

“Namengama aro *quarter* man·jokma?” mamatang sing·atengachim.

“Man·kujaengani gimin Chigapamangan an·tangtango dongatkuenga,” ua aganchakataha.

“Am, ong·aia indide, indiba na·a nokchina re·bana man·ode namachim, Marcy aro Chigani gimin chanchina nangenga.”

Marcy aro Chigani gimin chanchina nangenga ine mamatangni aganatako knaon, Arim gisiktango



jagokmanpilengachim. “Basakgalgal uamangara mai ong·angskajok?” ine ua gisiktango chanchiengachim; indiba uko parakatgija, “Jongmande nampaengama?” ine sing·atskaaha.

“Bao ua bi·sani giminde mamingkon aganan sikjajok, na·simangosa angade ka·dongsona man·aiengjok,” ine mamatang aganataha. “Donaha, na·a re·bana man·ode uiatbo.”

Mamatangni aganatenggipa kattarang Arimni gisikko su·dika gita dakataha. Mamagipa uni depanteo ka·dongsoani pal ua an·tangosa ka·dongsoenganiko uiaha. Ua somoio ua an·tangni dakenga kamrangko niatskaon, mamatangni depanteo ka·dongsona man·gijaniming maming dingtanganiko nikatskajaengachim. Ua mamatangni an·tangko chonaonin dal·ataniko gisik ra·ataha. Noknako bajaro chu ringe kajia ka·akoba ua gisik ra·atengachim. Chigapamangba uko knaode namnikjawa ine ua unosa chanchiatengachim.

Waltिंगoba ua Noknana *phone* ka·e nina sikaha. Ua Noknani *mobile* numberko sikdepaha; indiba Noknani *mobileko switch off* ka·a ine uni *mobileo* aganchakengani gimin ua bate suk ong·jaha. Ua SMS see watate dongenma ine chanchiengoba, kattarangan una ua somoio nabajaengachim. Ja·mankitiko, ua Noknana pringo *phone* ka·e niskana aro uno man·jaode SMSchi uiate donna miksongaha.

## *Bak Chi-sa*

**P**ringgipino mande mikkang name uikujao, Rangtong Jamiemangni nokoni scooter sale ong-katbaaha. Ua bajaro nappake matchu be-en breaha. Nokona sokon ua Tengtonpani gariko nikeaha. Mosatang pringnin sokbachenge an-tangko nikejaode maikoba chanchigenma ine ua gisiktango chanchiengachim. Ua an-tangni matchu be-en ra-baako babilisio doneaha. Uni ja-mano ua sa-raona re-angaha.

Uano Tengtonpa aro songni adita me-aparang asonge cha ringsoengachim. Rangtong agitchae dongenggipa chokkiko de-jite asongaha.

“Cha ra-bataibo, Nokna,” Tengtonpa ku-rang on-ataha.

“Ja-manba ringna man-aigen, na-songara ru-utsoahama?” Rangtong sing-aha.

“lan nang·na skangmangmang,” Tengtonpa aganchakaha. “Mikkarangba tik dongjaengani giminsa *tarpaulin* pinna ra·bachenge donenga.”

“Oe, mejal attamoba mikka jimbejok, indaken. anga nokona re·bana man·jaha,” ine Rantong ku·jokangaha. Unon Noknani cha ra·bae on·ako ua ra·chaksoe, “Nonode,” ine uko nigitdoe sing·aha.

“Pringni chakate cha ringe banoba roengakon,” ine Nokna agane uni cha ra·chakbagipa *trayko* ra·e babilsichina re·angaha.

“Jamiepade sokbaama, sokbakujama, ma·gipako grongna re·anga inenga?” ine Tengtonpa Rantongko uibaa gita sing·aha.

“Ah, haidade,” Rantong uijadake aganchakaha.

“Boningni ma·gipani songde Sijumanchaonide ong·jakon, Simsang chi nalsachi ga·bate re·na nangkuengana. Bisongni songode a·ani me·dik aro sam·dikrangkoba sue bitechisa konge tariani gimin jakkalna nambeawai; chingaba boningni on·atakosa jakkale nikmana,” Tengtonpa agandapaha.

“Hai kamrangko a·bachenge ninahama?” Chibrongpa ta·makkuko lekkao ro·e dol·giminko wa·al so·bakroroe aganataha.

“Naimagnok,” ine gipinrangba agantokaha.

\* \* \*

Babilsio kam ka·engoba Noknani gisiko jajrenganirangan gapengachim. Ua an·tangna ua salo

mai ong·gen uisona man·jaengachim. Arimni uko bajaro chu ringe ka·jia ka·akoba ua gisik ra·atengachim. Arimara una kakket ka·sabebeachimma ukoba uina ua neng·beengachim. Salo uko mahari dolgnini chanchiano, jinmani mikkangona okamate gumetangna on·songna sing·genma ineba ua chanchisoengachim. Unode ua maiko aganchakgen aro aganchakjaoba baditan kratchaatako man·gen ine rikki-rikkot chanchisoe kensoengachim.

Saljatchi badeangon song·a chanarangba matchotangaha. Mahari tom·aona Rantongni aro Noknani maharirangba sokbatokaha. Sa·rao donggipa chokki aro *bench*rango uamang asonge, gue pan cha·e nanga nangja kattarangko agangrikengachim.

“Sakoba sengkuna nangengama, chanchi-ri-maniko a·bachengon namkujawama?” ine Rantongni mamatang saksa Tengtonpako sing·ataha.

“Ia boning Jamiepakosa nichaksoengachim... da·oara sa bajimang ong·pilengjok,” Tengtonpa jaktango gho-ri gangipako nie aganaha. “A·bachengoba nambebeaignok, haimo ripengrang basaningona re·batokbo.”

Kam a·bachengnasiengaha ine re·bagiparang chokkitangtangko basa ning·ona de·nape asongtokaha. Uamang kattarangko name knarikna siktokengachim. Noknama jinmaming asongengachim. Noknade noksamo gue den·giparangming dongengachim.

Pilakchin ku·rangrang jripangaha. Tengtonpa mikkango donggipa biapo chadenge katta

naatchengaha, “Da·alo angni nogipani nokona mahari dolgnichini sokbagipa sakantikon anga nokni chra ong·e, rimchaksoa. Ang’ namchikni a·gilsakko watangani salo mahari chanchina manchie dongipa sal da·alo sokaha. An·ching je chanchianirangko dakoba saksa sakgipinni aganako knatimgrike aganna, ine anga sakantikon ku·mongchengna namnika.”

“Pilakna skang anga iandake aganchengna namnika, chinga me·chikni mahari gita ia salna...”

Tengtonpani aganenggipa kattarang matchotkujaengon, “Da·mo, angna aganna on·chengbo,” ine ku·rang gam·bee chrikwatako basao asonge tom·soenggipa manderang knaaha. Ku·rang gam·baenggipachipakko uamang gitok dekrange niaton, Jamiepani demechikko jako sale rimbaengako niksoaha. Jamiemaba uamangni ja·man ja·man re·baengachim.

Dongsoenggipa manderang mitdu mitdu aganbana a·bachengaha. Mitamrangde maian ong·banasienga ine kensopilengachim. Jamiepamangni re·baenggipachipakko manderang rama wate on·soaha.

“Anga nokgipani ku·ranganiko knana sikenga,” ine Jamiepa krengbaroroengachim.

“Maiko aro sani ku·ranganiko na·ara knana am·enga, ka·sne aganbo,” Tengtonpa boningtangni sepangbaon uko mol·mola gnanng agansoaha.

“Ia Rantongni ku·ranganiko knana nangenga.”

“Bao, angara mai dosko dakjok?” Rantong mikwang pewang dake sing·engachim.

“Indiba ang’ demechikni aganamingde dintangake, Jamie na·an aganna nanggen,” ine Jamiepa demechikko ku·chitangpile krengataha.

Jinmachi jikjaka aro ku·rang gam·e aganengako Noknaba knae sa·raona re·baaha. Ua Jamieni pagipana kene aro jinmana kratchae mikchi ga·akroroe ku·rang moe aganengako knasrapeaha. “Mejal attamo mikka jimmitingo babamangko grongna bia nokona re·baa. Miattamkoba chingon cha·a aro chinga an·tangtangni gisepode jik·seba ong·aha,” ine Jamie graprroe kattarangko paraksrangaha.

“Chinga songchi re·angaonide nokona da·sion sokbaahachim. Ianona re·bana skangmangmang ramao *bike* sale re·anggiparangko ang’ sugipa nikrike, attamo *lottery ticket* ra·rikako aganaha. Unasa anga demechikko sing·on, kattarangko tale ianona joljol re·baenga. Angni *whisky* ra·e dongipakoba na·an bon·e ringbatokaba,” Jamiepa Rangtongko miktenten niatkue aganaha.

Rangtong aro Jamie sakgnian jinmachiko nina pa·gija nichikkome dongaha.

“Da·o chingni knaenggipa kattarangara kakket ong·ama?” Rangtongni mamagipa dongoba dongtojae gritangko sing·ataha.

“Oe, mama,” ine Rangtong jechakna man·jae ka·sne aganchakaha.

Ua kattarangko knarike Noknade kusi ong·skabeengachim; indiba gumetang aro abitangnasa kratchachakengachim. Ua uamangna ka·sachakoba an·tangde kusi ong·e gue den·gipaona re·angpilaha.

“Na·ara maidakesa chingko kratchaatjok?”  
 Rangtongni mamagipa gritangko rake manengataha.  
 “Magnasa na·ara skia man·aijok,” ine ua  
 saidapangkuaha.

Tom·anio kajia golmal a·bachengengahachim.  
 Tengtonpa chadenge jakpatangko jinmana mesokate  
 aganaha, “Atcha, tom·tom dongchengkunamo, an·ching  
 jekoba ka·sne chanchie matchotatna.”

“Anga angni mosatang Rangtongna iakon  
 agangenchim, nang·ni kamba chingko da·o engtogija  
 dakatjok. Nang·ko Jamiekoba maidake  
 saimanengkugen, ra·na dongna inoba nang·ma, nang·pa,  
 nang’ mama·adao sing·chengesa jekoba dakna nanga  
 ine na·a da·onaba uikujama? Na·songni kamara  
 mikkangchiko doko janggilchi sa·dika gita dakaijok.  
 Da·o na·simangni gimin anga aganna changjajok,  
 gipinrang aganchengchina.”

“Kattarangko knatimrike niora namjajok,” ine  
 songoni me·apa saksa jean noksul·songsul chane  
 mahari chanchiaona re·baachim, chadenge aganna  
 a·bachengaha. “Da·o angni nikrikaniode, A·chikni niam  
 gita, Rangtongko a·kim watna nangenga, indiba ia  
 a·selo bak man·enggipara gelnā man·gijagipa  
 ma·jongtangni demechikmingan ong·enga ine sakkikoba  
 man·skaenga. Anga an·tangde uamangara ra·nan  
 dongnan miksongmanchagiparangma name sing·e  
 nistrange, na·song mahari dolgni jekoba chanchie  
 chu·sokataibo inesan aganpana man·aijok.”

“Mitela, atchu nangni nambee ku·pattianina,” Tengtonpa aganaha. “Anga uamangko sing·e nichengna skangba, mahari dolgnionikon iandaken dakboma ine sing·chengna nangnikenga.”

“Sing·nan nanggen aro kamkoba da·alan matchotatna nanggen,” Rantongni mamagipa aganangaha. “Chingade da·o maiko agankugen, ia gatani kamara namjajok. Da·ode na·simangni sikaosajok.”

Maharini sing·na bil on·ako man·e, Tengtonpa namchiktangko miktenten niate sing·aha, “Jamie na·ara Rantongko ra·na dongnan inen miksongchong·motengama?”

“Oe, mama,” ine Jamie ka·sne aganchakaha.

Mahari dolgnini mikkango jechakode ina solako man·an baksa doka satakoba chakna nanggen ine Rantong kenjole, “Angaba ra·nan inen miksongeng·achim,” ine ku·rachakaha.

“Na·simangara maiko agana?” Tengtonpa uni boningtang aro nogipakoba sing·aha.

“Iamanga ra·na dongna namnikgrikode aro mahario champenganirang dongjaode ra·aichina, indiba iandakgipa kratchaataonade chingko sokatna nangjachim,” Jamiepa aganchakaha.

Dolgni mahari chanchianio Rantong aro Jamieko kimat·dongatna neng·nikanide dongjaha. Bia ka·ani salkoba antisagipaon, Mondolio gisik pil·ate bia ka·e on·na tik ka·aha. Ua sal sokkujadipetna Rantong uni ma·a·nochi dongena nangaha. Demechik Dilsakoba abotang baksa donangna nangaha.



Chanchirima matchoto, cha·e ringe Rangtongni maharirang songtangchina re·angpilaha. Rangtongba an·tangni gana chinaniko kingsa kinggni *bago* chipaha. Ua demechikko mikron okkae nie noktangoni ong·katangaha. Ua an·tangni chimonggimin mal bostu aro ge·gimin gogimin mingsakoba ua somoionin kangna aro ra·angna man·jaha. Uni dukkode ua an·tangosan uiaiaha.

Maharirangni re·bildangtokani ja·manosa Noknani gisikrangba buduchi ka·e dona dakaoni engsrokanga gita dakangaha. Ua an·tangni *mobileko* sandina kuturitangona re·angaha. Pringonin kamrang bang·e uni gisiko sosojengjeng ong·ahani gimin ua an·tangni *mobileko switch off* ka·e done gualchipahachim. Ua an·tangni kodam sambao *mobileko* nikaha. Ua uko koldoe *switch on* ka·ani ja·mano, SMS sokbaakoba nikaha. Ua SMSko kulie nion, “*I’m sorry, Nokna,*” ine Arimni seatakosa nikaha.

Nokna gisiktango Arimko an·tangna dakgimin kamrangna ka·o nangahaoba uko kema ka·nade neng·nikani dongjaengachim. Ua somoio, ua Arimni kattarangko man·soe kusi ong·bataha. Uni gisiko Arimni kosako ong·gija chanchianirangba gimaangroroaha. Ua Arim baksa agangrikna ine uni *mobile numberko* sikdepaha. Changni chang sikdepoba man·jaengani gimin ua Arimko Chigamangni nokona re·e grongna miksongaha.

“Bachina nono?” ma·gipa Noknani ong·katangako nikrike sing·aha.

“Arimchi re·angchengkuna.”

“Noko...” noko kamrangko nirokna nangjawama ine ma·gipa aganna dakengachim; indiba demechikni gisikko uichipate, “Nokona maina aganataija?” ine aganskaaha.

“*Phone* ka·e nioba man·janasa re·angchengenga, noko kam bang·akode nikengachim,” Nokna ma·gipani aganna am·ako uia gita aganchakangengachim. Ua rama tongsaoni *rickshawo* gadoangaha.

Chigamangni nok sa·raona sokeon Nokna kratchamangija, “Arim... Arim ...” ine gam·e okameaha.

Okamako knae, Do·me apalona ong·katbaon Noknako nikaha. Noknana maiba dal·bea a·sel ong·ahakon ine ua gisiktango jajrengengachim.

“Hai nokningchi asongbo,” ine ua Noknako asongchakram kuturiona rimangaha.

Ua glasso chiko Noknana on·chenge aganaha, “Dada Arimde Kalen baksa ong·katangaha. Mamagipa uko Shillongchi okamatengana; indiba da·alde bisong Nongal Bibrao donganggenkon.”

Uko knaon Nokna ka·bee, “Arim, na·a maina angna agangija re·anga,” ine ka·siksike grapaha.

Noknani grapengako nikon, Do·me uni sambao asonge “Nokna, Nokgipani namnikani ong·ode na·simangni miksonganirang salsaode chu·sokaigen,” inesan ka·dimeani kattarangko agane on·na nan·aiaha.

# *Bak Chi·gni*

“**C**hingna tik ong·e tangka on·na nanga,”  
jinmaoni saksa chrikengachim.  
“Baosa mahajonara, nangakode on·nan  
nanggen,” sakgipin aganatengachim.

“Indakede ong·nan man·jawa,” saksagipa  
krengdapatengachim.

“Da·mo....da·mo, sengkubo,” ine sakgipin  
uamangko beng·engachim. Uan Nongal Bibrani koela  
a·damo, kam ka·giparangko nitimgipa ong·achim.  
“Intango mahajon re·bana am·enga, unosa na·simangna  
tangka nangkuenggiparangkode on·na man·aignok,” ine  
ua talate on·engachim.

“Angni man·gnide *ton* bongani dongachim, iade  
*ton* gittamnasan ong·kuenga,” saksa suk ong·gija agane  
dongkuengachim.

“Unanba sengkubo ine anga aganenga, da·ode bia sokbana nangengjokchim. Ua re·baenggipa *Sumo*ara sani ong·enggen?” ine kam ka·giparangko nitimgipa, gari re·baenggipako jaksi ote aganengachim. Koelani a·dimurang ramarango rippronge gariko name uiatjaengachim. Ramarangkoba koela gatgipa garirang namen nosto ong·atahachim.

Ru·utgijan *Sumo* bolsa ua biapona sokbaaha. Garioni Kalen aro Arim ong·kataha. Uamangni ja·mano garini jangchigipa do·gako oe me·tra saksaba a·dimu dokrokroroe ong·onaha.

“Da·oara hisap ki·tapde matchotahama?” Kalen uni koela cho·ako nitimna rakkigipao sing·aha. Ua an·tangni sosima gisim ganbagipakoba oke rumalchi a·dimuko ripakroengachim.

“Mitamna matchota, mitamna dongkuengani giminan golmal ong·soengachim.”

“Ha, maidakesa?” Kalen rakbatkale sing·aha, “Anganba nang·nara hajal sotdokko jakkalsochina on·atachimba, na·ara baditakosa man·soa?”

“Bao angnara hajal kolatchikosan donange, bia an·tangde songchi re·angade,” ine ua sakgipinko miksonge Kalenna aganchakaha. “Indaken kam ka·giparangna tangka chu·ongjajok.”

“Indakaianesai anga an·tangan nirokjaode,” Kalen aganaha. “A·chikska, mandetang ine jakkalpaoba kakket ong·gijagipakode anga namnikja. Jeba ong·bo, kam ka·giparangnade tik ong·e tangkako

on·na nanggen, maiko cha·skagen uamangba,” ine ua nitimgipana tangkaranko on·ataha.

“Sako rakkiesa, mosa?” Arim sing·aha.

“Ching songoni na·a, jikara seng·gnang ra·a dakeming poraiachi kamchiba ong·ja dakanasa, angming kam ka·e rochina mamagipa watatachim. Tangka ra·angoba, nokchinade sokangjawa, ramao ringe cha·e bon·atangaigen,” Kalen aganaha.

“Oe, tangka paisa man·paoba bang·bata manderangan simsakbreja aro cholko man·oba janggitangani gadangko ra·donaba jotton ka·ani komia. Iakon niataibo, an·chingni a·songni gamrangde bon·angengjok; indiba songo·noko skia man·ani aro rama jal·angrangni obostade namroroani pal namjabatroroenga. Mandeskaoba ka·dongna man·ja, togiani cha·bokanian bang·a, unan angade sakgipino bang·e ka·dongna man·ja,” ine Arim aganaha.

“Na·aba skangode jeoba ka·dongaiachimkonne? Bini togia dipetsa, mo Sengki,” ine Kalen uamang baksa re·bagipa me·trako ku·mongate Arimko kal·akataha.

Ia kattarangna Arimni aganchakna man·ningjae jrip dongengako nike Sengkiba ka·dingsik dakpaengachim. Ua Arimko songtang Nongal Bibraosa nikchengahachim. Kalenni aganbaleke roaoniko knae ua aditade Arim aro Noknani gimin uibaahachim.

Nongal Bibrao Sengkimangni nokon Kalen nokpara ra·e dongengachim. Batanggimin salo, Chima A·weoni uamang re·baon, nokpara ra·gipaon waltuaha. Pringo, uamang Sengkimangon mipringkoba

cha·baaha. Sengki Shillongo poraiengachim. Uni Shillongchi re·na am·engako uie, Kalen uko an·tangni gario gatjolbaengachim. Uamangni chadenge golpo ka·enggipa biaponi Simsang chibimako tapsrisri jokangengakoba nikatengachim.

“Biapko an·senge nikate, Simsang chibima rikamo rona sikataiengjok angade,” Arim agangrikani katta bichongko dingtangataha.

“Oe, basakoba *picnic* chae rona man·genba,” Sengki ku·ritchuatengachim.

“Indiba mejalo ramarango wa·ramarango nikbae suk ong·bapiljajok,” Arim aganaha.

“Oe mo, songoba iade gipengjok, akkal·karapko mesoksoenga ine manderangde ina daktokenga,” Sengki agantaiaha.

“Uade ong·aigen, bol·wa·arangan nosto ong·angengode a·songo maidake kangal ong·jawa,” Kalen agandapaha.

“Mosa Chigamangni koborara mai man·cha ong·a, na·a uibaama?” Arim Kaleno sing·aha.

“Silchiara Chigani songo dongmitingo sakgipinko namniksoani gimin, mosara biko watahana. Uni ja·manode Marcymingsa bia ong·angskajokkon,” Kalen aganchakaha.

“Ah, indiba Marcyara an·tangming poraienggipa Nepalikosa namnikengachimde,” Arim kattarangko talsrange jagokpilengachiin.

“Ukoara nang’ mamaan namnikjanaba. Jongmanan mejade biko su·e watate noko habi jabi ong·angtokjoknaba, nang·na uiatjane?” Kalen uko sing·skaaha.

“Oh, indakesa mamara bisongko ta·raken sing·e on·srangna am·engjokkon,” Arim aganengachim.

“An·chingba re·skanahama,?” Kalen sing·aha.

“Oe, namaignok,” ine Arim aro Sengki apsan aganchakaha.

Koela cho·ako nitimgipaba kam ka·giparangna tangka on·a matchote, Kalenni gari salna dakengo re·baaha. “An·ching ning·o koela cho·gipa budepa saksaba mejalo siahana, binaba tangka on·na nangkuengachim,” ine ua Kalenna aganengachim.

“Sawasa?” Kalen garini kelki gita niate uko sing·aha.

“Matchi A·simoninaba, bini jik gale katbagipade sijokna. Jik gital ra·gipara bikon gale katskajokna. Unasa chol dongjae koela cho·e cha·na re·bae, ma·nok chane donggipao siahana. Nogipa·namchikgiparangba biko jik kimjojoana namnikjae simsakjahakon, una agrede angaba taldapja,” ine ua aganchakengachim.

“Hai, indide ching’ baksan sigipaona re·bo,” ine Kalen uko garitango gataha.

“Je ong·oba an·chingba sigipao nappake re·srangnama?” Kalen Arimmango sing·aha.

“Ong·aigen angade songska nokska ong·e sokpanade nangachim,” Sengki aganchakaha.

Arimde re·na sikjaoba ripengtango jechakna man·dike namnikpaako mesokna skotango gakuaha. Pil·sara sianggipako Matchi A·simoni inani gimin sawa·mancha ong·a, uko uina uni gisiko sikengachim.

Uamang sigipa nokdangona sokangaha. Gariko rama rikamo donangaha. Uanoni uamang ja·achi re·ange sigipao mande jinma baksa asongepaaha. Nongal antiona re·bagipa manderangba, sigipa nokdango nappakanggiparang bang·achim.

Arim uano asonge roengon, sigipana tarigipa chisolo, “Ka·seng Marak,” ine biming seako nikaha. Pagipakoba apsan bimingchin mingachim ine ua gisik ra·ate be·en an·srik dakbaaha. Ua sianggipa mandeni mikkango nirikna namen sikaha. Sigipara uni pagipaan ong·genma ine ua an·tangnade chanchichipengachim.

Koela cho·ako nitimgipa sigipako dongipa ku·turiona napangon, uko Kalen, Arim aro Sengkiba ja·rikangaha. Arim sianggipani mikkango name niaha. Sigipani mikkang dingtangbeoba uko an·tangni pagipaanchim ine ua uisrangaha. Ua pagipako siahama tangengama kobor man·gija ru·uta bilsirangna dongengachim. Ua an·tangni dukko rakkirikna man·jae gam·bee grapaha. Chanchisogijagipa somoi aro biapo ua pagipani siakosa chagrongaha. Uni ripengrangna uko parakoba namgni dongjaha ine ua aganjaha.

Arimni ripengrang uni rang·san a·gital mandeni siako nikon duk ong·beani a·selko uisokjaha. Uamang uko mamingkoba sing·gija ka·dimeatnasa jotton ka·aha. Arim sigipa mandeko nikon maikoba ning·tue



chanchie duk ong-ahakon ine uamang gisiktangtango  
chanchiskaengachim. Sigipako dongipa kuturioni  
ong-kate uamang gariona joljol re-baaha. Koela cho-ako  
nitingipade sigipa noko dongrikaha.

Walsimsimahaosa, uamang Shillong  
songjinmaona sokangaha. Kalen Sengkiko uni nokpara  
ra-e dongenggipaona salangchenge donaha. Sengki  
uamangna stoveo cha tarie on-aha. Cha ringmane  
uamang Arimmamagipani nokona re-chakattaiaha.

“Uanma, nang-ni chamegipara?” Arim Kalenko  
gari gadoa tapan kal ake sing-aha.

“Ong-jaba, nang-nan kragenchim.”

“Na aba da-o jechaka dakengoba, an-tangan  
namnike garitango gatbajok,” Arim agantaiaha.

Saksa sakgipinko tatgrike, uamang Arim-  
mamagipani nokona sokangaha. Arimmamagipa,  
Marcy aro Jongman noko bairong nie rosoengachim.  
Arimni re-baengako uamang kobor man-soe  
nichakjolengachim. Marcy uamangko niksoon do-ga  
oe on-soaha.

## *Bak Chi·gittam*

“**A**ia, da·oba ia me·chikkode niogipan depantena tol·e on·sotaiengaha! Knalosa nokdang ding·akode nikaignok,” ine Nokna noksulni bairongo *serial* nie suk ong·gija aganengachim.

“Oe na·a, niogipa namja daksimanan ka·sachakpila,” Ringchima ku·ritchuatengachim.

Nokna D.S.C.ni porikkao name, Williamnagar *Deputy Commissioner Officeo* L.D.A. kamko man·ahachim. Uni noksul Ringchimaba apsan officeo kam ka·engachim.

“Knalde nono Ringchini atchiani sal ong·enga. Bilsigni gapengjok. Shillongchini Ringchimanitang·mangba re·batokengana,” Ringchima katta naattaiaha.

“Basako Ringchimanigipakoara bia ka·enga?”

“Bia ka·ani salkode tik ka·srangkuja, unan nokchina re·bajolengana. Mandede na·song jolchian dongachimna. Ringchipani angna biming minge on·akoba gualsrangjok,” ine Ringchima Noknani sing·anina aganchakaha.

“Sawan ong·enggen?” ine Nokna uiatjaengachim.

“Knalan uiaigenba, na·a re·bataibone.”

Ringchimanigipani ra·na amenggipara Chima A·we jolchian dongachim inako knae, Noknani gisikko su·dika gita dakaha. Arimni una agangija Chima A·weko wate re·angaonin uni ka·beani nampilna man·jaengachim. Arimni gimin ua darangonikoba knajaengoba gisiktangode uko gualna man·jaengachim; indiba ua an·tangni suk ong·gijako mesokgija nama dake dongaha.

“Nang·ni *sweater* sikenggipade matchotang-engjokma?” Nokna katta gipinko naataha.

“Bao, nonoko nina nangen siknan man·jaba. Nang·kosa sikatpachina mol·molna sikaiengjok.”

“Ani, jokode nina. Re·aba re·skanaha, angni nina re bagipaba matchotjok,” ine Nokna aganengachim.

“De walnam,” ine Nokna agane asongaoni chakataha. Ua wal andalao *torch light* nate an·tangni nokpara ra·gipaona re·angaha. Nokni apsalio, ua a·ani me·dikrango *anthuriam*rangko nitoe ge·e donachim. Nokko do·ga dala tekako oe, ua nokningchi napangaha.

Kuturi ge·sao tuchakna, ge·gipino asongchakani aro babilsikoba kachapani gimin Nokna uano

dongtonikachim. Saksan ong·oba noksul-songsul nangan salo dakchakgrikani gimin ua uni dongenggipa biapko namnikachim. Office chutti dongosa ua songtangchi re·angrongachim. Noko ua ma·gipa aro Dilsako done, pangnan uamangna simbraatrongachim. Bilsara bon nasiahani gimin ua Dilsako abotangmingan done skulo poraiatengachim.

Babilsio Nokna an·tangna cha ritchengaha. Cha rita minon, uko ringroroe ua an·tangni *serial* nibagipako gisik ra·atpilengachim. Ua *serialo* namgija dake kai·gipa me·chikmaan golpoko me·suatenga ine ua nikatengachim. Salgipino Ringchimanigipa baksa Arimko ua maibakae uide uko golpo ka·na man·gen ineba ua chanchiatengachim. Pil·sara Ringchimanigipako ua changsaba nikkujani gimin, ua maidakgipa ong·gen ineba gisiktango chanchiengachim. Cha ringmane, ua ajamroroe palango tusina gadoaha.

\* \* \*

“Da·al attamo re·baengakonba?” Ringchima Noknako salgipino officeo sing·aha.

“Oh, anga jamangkujaba. Da·o iako *type* ka·manjokode kam dongjawaha,” Nokna *computero* kam ka·roroe aganchakengachim.

“Nisoaignok indide, Ringchipaba salna re·bajok angkode,”ine Ringchima agane kuturioni ong·katangaha.

Office jokani somoio, Nokna an·tangni *bagko* ra·e D.C. Officeoni bajarona dakanggipa ramako

ja achi re angaha. Rama rikamrango me-gong bol gipokchi pe balengjokchim. Mitam biaprango Krismas pulrangba ramachipakna gongnoke dongengachim. Uarango nikange ua gisiktango kusi ong-angengachim.

Bazarona sokangon ua *Beauty Parlouro* napeaha. Ua salo sakgipinrang dongjani gimin ua joljol an-tangni kniko tariatna man-aha. Ua an-tangni kni donani bewalko dingtange ratatchinaba uko tariatgipa me-chikna aganahachim.

Uni kniko pakkresret ratatani ja-mano, "Da-on nang-ko nambate nikjok," ine uko kni tariatgipa me-chik aganaha.

Nokna janerao an-tangko niaton, kni tariatako namnikahachim. Ua an-tangkon dambe bateba nikpilahachim. "Indiba angnade kraama krajawama," ine Nokna an-tangko tariatgipao sing-kuaha.

"Da-sio nang-ni kni donbagipade, *style* gitichamsachim," ine ua ka-dingesa aganchakaha.

Nokna knitangko tariata matchote uanoni ong-katbaaha. Ua ba-ra dokano napeskaaha. Ringchina ua chola kingsako breaha. Uni ja-mano, ua *autorickshaw* bolsao gadoe an-tangni nokpara ra-gipaona re-angaha.

Ua chi ding-achi au-miksue, Ringchimangni nokona re-na tariaha. Uni gisikrang ua somoio kusi ong-batengachim. Ua Arimko niktaijae chanchisima gita dakaijokchim aro nokko nirokna nange gisikba jribatahachim. Chola ding-ako dakmandani rong baksa melie gane ua nokoni ong katangaha.

“Aia, da·alde nang·ko silbate nikengade,” Ringchima uko wal·tim sikipao niksoe agansoaha. Sin·kari a·bachengbae wal·tim sike asongna namengjokchim. Nokna wal·timona re·angaha. Uano Ringchiba ma·gipaming dongengachim.

“Ia nonona ra·bagipako on·na,” ine Nokna uni chola ra·bagipako Ringchina on·chengaha. Uni ja·mano, “Ha, iakoba,” ine ua *chocolate*koba Ringchina on·atjolaha.

“Mitela inbo, ai,” Ringchima demechikko skiatengachim.

“Mitela,” ine Ringchi ka·sne aganaha.

“*You are welcome.*”

“Maikoba dakchakna nanggenma?” Nokna Ringchimao sing·aha.

“Donaibo, intangosa sokbagiparangna mi on·ako nirokatbo.”

“Am, indiba anga babilsichi chi ringe·chengkuna,” ine Nokna aganaha.

Jakrachi glasso chi ra·e ringroroe Nokna babilsioni ong·katbaengachim. Unomiting Ringchimangni sa·raona *autorickshaw* bolsa sokbaaha. Sawa re·baa ine Nokna gisiknange niatengachim.

“Ringchi nang·ni mani Sengki sokbajok,” ine Ringchima aganengachim. Ringchipaba nokoni ong·katbaaha. Ringchimanigipa baksa Arimni *autorickshaw*oni ong·katako Nokna nikataha.

Ua an·tangko Arim nikatskana sikjae, bikan babilsichinan re·angpilaha.

Arimni Ringchimanigipa baksa re·baako Nokna niksoe gisiktango jajrengengachim. Ariman Ringchimanigipako bia ka·nasienggipama ine ua chanchiate dongtobajaha. Dikdiksana skangsan uni mikkang·bimang rongchingengachim. Gisiko suk ong·gijanirang nabataie, uni mikkang rongdimelangpilaha.

Arimde *autorickshaw* salgipana tangka gamate, Noknako nikrikjahachim. Wal·timo asongna Sengki chokki aro morarangko Arimna aro adagipana ra·bae on·aha.

Ringchima babilsiona re·baskaon, Noknani sodrokdrok asonge dongengako nikaha. “Mainasa na·ade iano wal·kuchake roengjok, mikchirangan napilengahakon?” ine ua Noknako sing·aha.

Noknani aganchakna man·gija dongengon, “Hai ang’ baksa, Sengkimangna nang·ko uiate on·na,” ine Ringchima uko rimaha. Grongna sikkujaoba jechake dongrikna man·jae, Nokna Ringchima baksa re·angaha. Wal·timo asongenggiparang, uamangni re·baako niksojaengachim.

“Sengki, ia Noknako grongbo,” Ringchima gam·e aganataha.

“Nokna,” ine Arim aro Sengki apsan aganmanaha.

“Ma bian?” ine Sengki Arimko sing·aha.

“Im,” inesan Arim aganchakna man·aiaha. Ua Sengkini uinasike sing·engako ma·sisooba agandapangna katta najaengachim. Ua Noknako chanchisogija somoio niktaie uni gisiko jajanian gapengachim.

“Namenga Nokna?” Arim ku·rang on·chengaha.

Sengki asongaoni chakate Noknako salam ka·e, “Na simang sakgni agangriksobone, anga dada aro bochi baksa agangrikna katta donga,” ine aganaha.

Noknade Ringchini ma·gipa aro pagipakoba uamang baksa asongatkuna sikengachim, indiba Sengkian uamang sakgniko pa·sike donangengani gimin uamangni re·angako jrip jrip nirikaha.

Arim aro Nokna an·tangtangni gisepo sawa ku rang naatchenggen ine dongengachim. Adita ja·mano, “Nokna, na·a basakonisa iano dongengjok?” ine Arim sing·chengaha.

“Na·ara maina angna agangija Shillongchi re·angpila? Nang·na *phone* ka·enioba maidakesa man·ja?” ine Nokna Arimni sing·ako aganchakgija uni ka·tongo ra·bite dongenggipa kattarangs nakatangchengaha.

“Mama angko nokchina aganatani gimin anga re·angchengachim. Uni salsagipaon, angni *mobile*ko Jongmanan sriksrik ra·bitange gimaataha. Daode anga SIM *card* gitalkosa jakkalengjok,” Arim aganchakengachim.

“Indiba na·ara mainasa re·bapiljajok?”



“Nokgipani ka·sae pa·manichi ua somolon anga pangkamgipa kamkoba Shillongon man·jolaha. Chima A·weode angni kam *extension order* man na nangengachim. Na·songni songo dongmitingo, nang·na duk aro kratchaataniko on·anina, angko kema ka bo, indiba nkgija ru·utaniko, hai salam,” ine ua agane Noknako salam ka·aha. Unon ua Noknani jakasini jaksio bia ka·ani jakstem ganako nikatjaha. Ua jaja jiji dake “Ma, na·a bia kajahama?” ine Noknako sing·srangaha,

“Che!” ine Nokna agane an·tangni jakko bik salpilaha. “Angara sakosa bia ka·gnok? Na·a angko ong·gija potchipe dongaijokma? Bebeko angona re·bae sing·ena, ka·saanio maina kenna nangachim?” ine un·aganmitingon Arimsa mikgitchak pegitchak dakbaskaaijokchim. “Indiba da·o nangming Sengki ....” ine Nokna agandapangna man·jaha. Uni mikrono mikchian suakahachim.

“Nokna, na·a chingko chanchisretenga,” ine Sengki aganatengachim. Ua uamang sakgnina cha ra·baengmitingo, Noknani aganenggipa kattarangko knarikahachim. “Angade Kalenkosa bia ka·enga. Bia Guwahatio kam nangana dongrikaha; indiba intang walo ianona sokbaenga. Anga bochioniko nang ni gimin knaaha. Arimni namnikgipara na·an ong·enggen ine chanchiate, bikoba nang·ni gimin uiatchenggija da·alo rona pa·sike rimbajolaha. Basakobade wateming ka·taigiparangde ekgrikna man·teljahanane,” Sengki uamangko kal·akdapatkuaha.

“Biasa,” ine Nokna aganaha. Sengkini kattarangchi ua ka·dimeatako man·pile uni ka·tongo kusini nabapilengachim. Unomitingo Ringchima aro Ringchipaba *cupo* cha ra·e ringroroe sa·raona nakatbaaha.

“Oe, angni kaman indake daka gitan ong·aijok. Da·ode nang·oba neng·nikanirang dongjahaode, na·a nang·ni ma·drang-mahari baksa chingona re·babo,” ine Arim Noknana aganengachim.

“Am, indiba skanggipao na·a chingni nokchi re·chengbo. Anga ia antian re·enga,” ine Noknani Arimna aganengako Sengki aro uni adatang, bochitangba knae ka·dingaha.

---

















# SING·KAM

CRYSTAL CORNELIOUS D. MARAK

Mamatangni gisikode namchikgipako Arimna bia  
ka·ate on·na sikachim — aro Noknaba Arimko  
namnikengani gimin iana kusi ong·genchim.  
Champenganirangko niksamsue Arim Noknana  
agangija Chima A·weko wate re·angon, Nokna  
ka·abee dongrikna nangaha. Adita sal aro jani  
ja·mano, uni janggi tanganio gital ong·e  
re·mikkangtaioba, ua Arimko gualna man·jaha.  
Ua Arimko grongtaina man·genma — sal aro  
somoini aganchakanikosa nichaksoaiaha...